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SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

About the Schleswig-Holstein row
My notions are not clear,

sang the late Mr. Albert Smith a dozen years ago; and, now that the old dispute between Denmark and "the Duchies" has been fought over, has been settled, and has broken out again, the ideas of most people concerning the quarrel are at least as hazy as Mr. Albert Smith frankly and good-humouredly confessed *his* were in the great revolutionary year of '48. What is the matter in dispute—which side is in the right—which side, above all, is the strongest—which side will England support, which France, and which Russia? These are the questions in connection with the Schleswig-Holstein affair to which answers are required by the ordinary newspaper-reader who has neither time nor inclination to read through the diplomatic correspondence on the subject, but who may yet wish to know what chance there is of Denmark and Germany going to war, and to what further complications such a contest would probably lead.

The German provinces of Holstein and Lauenburg, and the semi-German province of Schleswig, have long been sources of trouble to the Danish Government, and have constantly afforded pretext for interference on the part of Germany. Holstein and Lauenburg belong to the Danish monarchy because the Duke of Holstein happens also to be King of Denmark; but they at the same time form part of the German Confederation, and Prussia, as the liberal leader, or would-be leader, of that, for the most part, ill-governed assemblage of States, feels called upon to protest from time to time against the manner in which the government of the Danish Duchies is carried on under the constitutional King who is their lawful Sovereign. Prussia has allowed the Rulers of several of the petty German kingdoms and electorates to give or refuse Constitutions to their subjects at pleasure. She has even suffered them to grant them, and afterwards, without so much as a decent pretext, retract

them; and on one occasion permitted the King of Bavaria to send troops into Hesse-Cassel for the pacification of the disfranchised Hesse-Casselers. But she so loves the Holsteiners that, after quarrelling with the King of Denmark on the

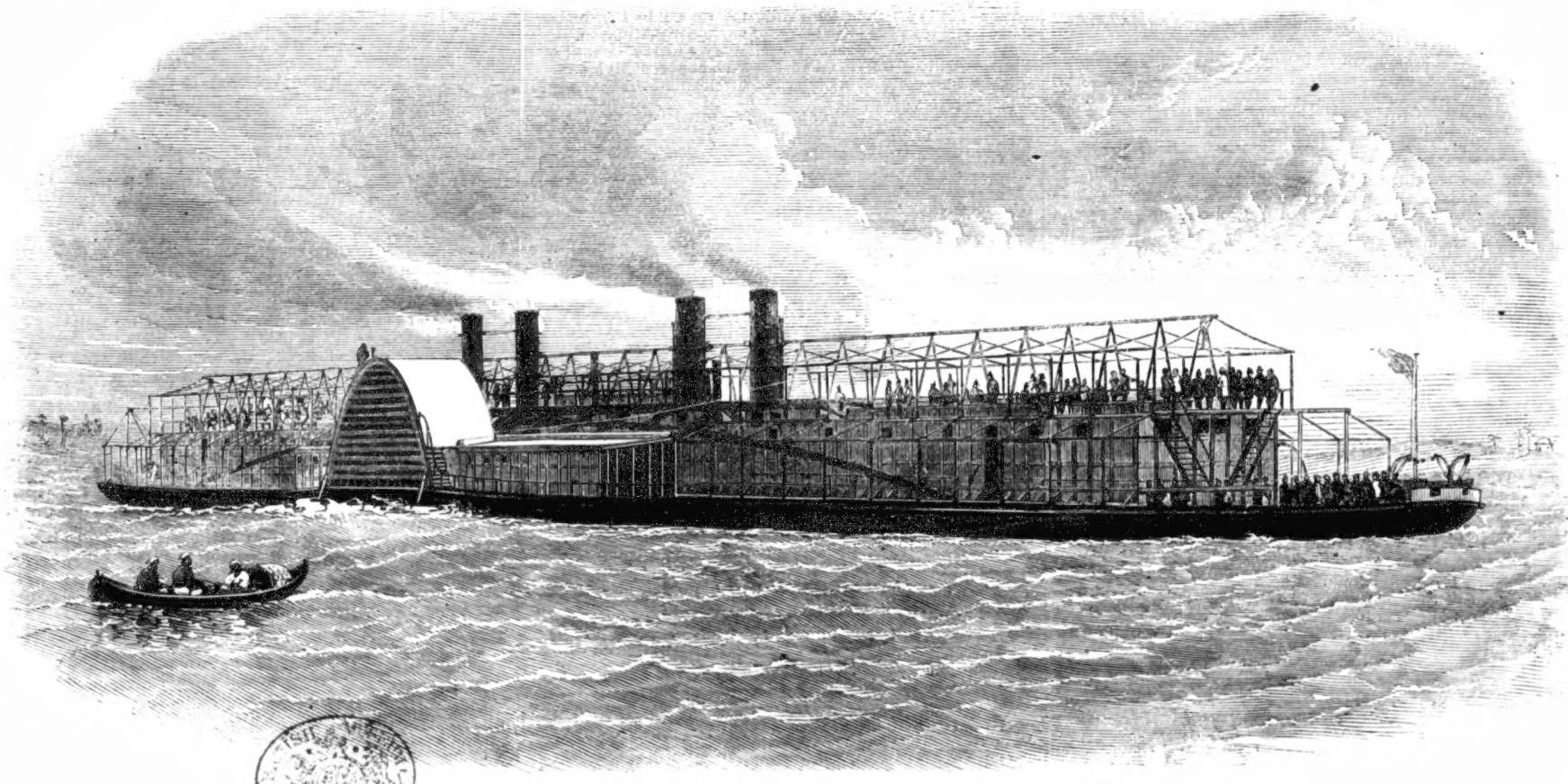
of political freedom as no German State in all the Confederation could boast of, and with which the inhabitants of Denmark proper were thoroughly satisfied. Not having all the political power conferred on them which they desired,

ground that, like the rest of his subjects at that time, they had no Constitution, she afterwards disputed with him because, in introducing a very liberal system of representation into his dominions, he placed the Duchies on precisely the same footing as Denmark proper. Everything short of anarchy and of total separation from the Danish Crown has been offered to Holstein, and Prussia has encouraged the Holsteiners in refusing every fair proposition that has been made to them by the Danish King.

It is scarcely necessary now to enter into the causes of the insurrection of 1848; but we may observe that, at bottom, it was just what the threatened one of 1861 promises to be—that is to say, a "nationality" movement. The inhabitants of the Duchies are not of Danish extraction; therefore they ought not to be governed by the Danes, though there is no State in Germany, including Prussia, in which the inhabitants enjoy so much freedom as in Denmark. The union of Schleswig with Holstein could be justified solely on the ground that a majority of the population in each of those Duchies were Germans; and the formation of an independent Schleswig-Holstein State was the avowed object of the so-called War of Independence, which, in the end, and at the suggestion of the three greatest Powers of Europe, had to be put down by Prussia herself. However, after the termination of the war, the King, resolved that none of his subjects in the Duchies or elsewhere should have any just cause of complaint against his government, promulgated the Constitution of which we have already spoken for the entire monarchy. Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg, the provinces which had just been fighting in the name of liberty, were discontented at receiving such an amount



PRINCE KUNG, BROTHER OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY CAPTAIN KOCH.)



GOVERNMENT TROOP-STEAMER FOR THE LOWER INDUS.—(DESIGNED BY MR. T. E. WINTER.)

they rejected the Constitution altogether. One would think after this that the King would have been justified in governing them absolutely as of old; but, instead of adopting this course, he assembled the Holstein and Lauenburg Provincial Estates, and requested them to suggest some new scheme of representation such as they would be willing to accept and abide by. Then this modest proposition was made by the Duchies: That there should be one Representative Chamber for Denmark proper, another for Holstein, a third for Schleswig, and a fourth for little Lauenburg; and that any one of these Chambers should be able to exercise a veto on the resolutions of the other three. With such a system it would eventually have been impossible to carry on the government of the country, to say nothing of the injustice of giving the same political importance to each of the Duchies as to Denmark proper, which has a population three times as great as that of Holstein, the largest of them.

What Prussia proposes, or rather what the Duchies under her patronage demand, is to Germanise Denmark, the alternative being that Holstein, Lauenburg, and Schleswig (which, though partly German by population, does not form part of the German Confederation) should unite and form a nominally independent State which, virtually, would be dependent on Prussia, and which might in time be absorbed by that "Sardinia of Germany."

Much has been written lately about the injustice of Germans in the Duchies not being allowed to use their own language in public proceedings. There have been many exaggerations and misrepresentations on this point; but it appears to have been true that, until lately, private schools directed by Germans were not allowed. There is a State system of education in Denmark, and the language of this State is Danish; but to apply such a system without exceptions was certainly harsh and tyrannical. On the other hand, it must be remembered that a German propagandism has been carried on for some time past in the Duchies on a large scale, and that it was necessary to counteract this; and in any case it did not become Prussia, which has made German the State language in Prussian Poland, to complain of Denmark following her example. However, at the present moment the German subjects of Denmark are allowed the free use of their own native tongue in schools, as well as in judicial pleadings. But the King has stated plainly that he will not tolerate any further interference on the part of Prussia, and Sweden has pledged herself to assist the Danish Monarch if German troops should cross the frontiers of "Scandinavia."

The awkward part of this quarrel as regards ourselves is that France (as well as Russia) sides with Denmark, that we also are, substantially, on that side, and that at the same time we are closely allied with Prussia. France would doubtless not object to see Sweden and Denmark at war with Germany; but it is our manifest interest that Germany should remain strong, and, of all possible relations which the Danish question presents, the only one that can suit us is a peaceable one.

NEW STEAM-SHIP FOR INDIAN NAVIGATION.

The novel craft depicted on the previous page is designed for the conveyance of troops on the Lower Indus. As the rivers of India, though usually broad, are tortuous, shallow, rapid in flood seasons, and abound in shifting sandbanks, a vessel intended for the conveyance of any considerable freight must necessarily deviate from the customary plan of build; and the steamer we engrave is one of a series (of various dimensions) recommended by a Government Commission as best adapted for the purposes required. Last week she took a trial trip, which was entirely successful.

The dimensions of the vessel (built by Messrs. M. Pearse and Co., of Stockton-on-Tees) are as follows:—Length over all, 377 feet; beam, 16; breadth over paddle-boxes, 74; depth, 5; ditto at paddle-shafts, 12; ditto at top of arched girders, 18; working draught of water, 2; displacement at 2 feet draught, 739 tons; tonnage, 3911, old measurement. The engines (built by Messrs. James Watt and Co., of London and Birmingham) are 220 nominal horse-power, having horizontal cylinders of 55 inches diameter and 6-feet stroke, and the diameter of the paddle-wheels is 26 feet. The hull of the vessel is constructed of puddled steel, and is strengthened longitudinally by four arched girders, two of which carry the paddle-wheels, while the other two run fore and aft, extending nearly the whole length of the ship. Similar means are employed for strengthening the vessel athwartships. She is steered at each end by means of "blades," which, instead of being worked from side to side in the ordinary manner of rudders, are caused to rise out of, or lower into, the water at the proper angle. Both sets of these "steering-blades" are worked simultaneously, and provision is made to work one set only, should an accident occur to the other. Her draught is only two feet.

The steamer has accommodation for eight hundred troops and their officers, in two tiers of cabins, and entirely surrounded with venetian panels. The berths are divided into five compartments, so as to permit of the troops being separated in case of sickness. As a protection from the rays of the sun, the whole vessel is covered with an awning, the area of which may be estimated by the fact of its weighing three tons. The handrails all round the main and promenade decks are tubular, and made to serve as speaking-tubes from the pilot to the engine-room. The vessel was tried on the measured miles in Long Reach and Gravesend Reach, the average speed attained being nearly twelve statute miles per hour; and the prevalent opinion of the many competent authorities was that this novel steamer would amply fulfil her intended object.

MISSIONARY SUFFERINGS.—The Cape papers contain particulars of the sufferings and death of various members of a devoted missionary party in the Zambesi country:—"After two years of unprecedented trial and suffering the Rev. Mr. Helmore, a missionary of seventeen years' experience, succumbed to disease and died. His wife was carried off by fever a few days afterwards, and was speedily followed by her two children, and then by a native teacher. The Rev. Mr. Price, urged thereto by the chief, Sekulu, quitted with his wife and family and found shelter elsewhere. The fate of another of the band, the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, remains a mystery; and he may have fallen a victim to disease or to bloodthirsty savages, or haply he may have escaped both and have found health or a peaceful asylum in some other part of the country. The afflictive intelligence above alluded to had been communicated to the veteran Moffat and Dr. Livingstone. Dr. Livingstone, his brother, and Dr. Kirk were communicated with when they were eight days from Lanyanti, the principal town of Makololo. The doctor and his party were well. The Pioneer, sent out for the use of the Livingstone mission, was in Simon's Bay, at the Cape, when the Cambrian left. She and the Sibon were then expected to leave in a few days for the Zambesi. They expected to meet the doctor and party on the Zambesi and proceed to Makololo."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* announces that the committee for examining the *senatus consultum* on the publication of accounts of the sittings has decided that these accounts must consist either in a full reproduction of the debates, or in an account of the sittings drawn up under the authority of the President of the Senate.

A medal is to be struck in commemoration of the Chinese campaign.

PRUSSIA.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the proposed address in reply to the speech of the King was read.

The address expressed a hope that, by the energetic employment of all proper means, the Government may succeed in re-establishing the constitutional state of things in Electoral Hesse. It acknowledges it to be a national duty of Prussia to bring about, in common with the other German Federal States, a satisfactory solution of the question of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, and considers it certain that, in case of Federal execution in Holstein, the rights of Germany in reference to Schleswig will be reserved.

In his reply to the address of the First Chamber his Majesty says:—

I have openly and distinctly explained the principles of my Government on assuming the Regency, and have stated what I wish to accomplish. I will not break with the past, but I intend, when my convictions urge it upon me, to make improvements in the institutions of the country, as my father of glorious memory did in 1808, and as my late brother was also induced to do by the events in his epoch.

I have marked out before me the limit to which I can go, and I will strictly follow the course upon which I have decided. We must not conceal from one another that we are, perhaps, approaching troublesome times.

In view of this probability everything depends upon the country being, through its representatives, united to me. I hope, I desire, and I expect this. It is thus only that we shall be strong, both at home and abroad, and be able to await the future with confidence.

The report that France had demanded explanations on account of the speeches delivered by the King of Prussia since his accession is denied in the Ministerial circles of Berlin.

General de la Marmora is at Berlin. The *Indépendance Belge* says he is endeavouring to reassure Prussia as to the intentions of Piedmont with regard to Germany; to induce her to recognise the possession of Venetia as a necessity for Italy and a danger for Austria and Germany; to promote, as representatives of constitutional liberty, relations of friendship between Piedmont and Prussia; and, lastly, to show that if these overtures are rejected Italy will be forced to unite herself closer than ever to France.

The German National Union have adopted a series of resolutions calling upon Prussia and Germany not to engage in any Austrian war where no German interest is threatened; to maintain the rights not only of Holstein but of Schleswig, and to aim at the establishment of a union between these Duchies; and in face of the growing military strength of France, and the notorious weakness of Austria, to forward the organisation of a united Federal army, under the leadership of Prussia, and to demand the convocation of a German Parliament.

AUSTRIA.

The Comitatus of Pesth has adjourned the consideration of the Emperor's late rescript; the replies of the other Comitatus, received so far, point out, for the most part, that no Imperial diploma could abrogate the constitutional rights of the Hungarian people, and that taxes imposed without the consent of the Diet cannot be legal. The Comitatus of Honth not only demands that a responsible and independent Hungarian Ministry should be appointed before the opening of the Diet, but also requests the annexation of the provinces formerly belonging to Hungary, and the earliest possible convocation of the Diet at Pesth. The Comitatus of Stuhlweissenburg has adopted an address demanding the restitution of Count Batthyani's property and the recall of the Count's heirs, at present in exile.

The Wojwodina has protested against any arbitrary incorporation of the province with Hungary, and demands that a separate national assembly shall be convoked, to meet at the same time as the Hungarian Diet.

Austria is increasing her means of defence. She has just contracted with a house at Trieste for the construction of two iron-plated frigates. The manufactories of arms in Thuringen are unable to execute all the orders sent to them from the different German States, especially Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Hanover, and Baden. They have also been compelled to refuse orders from Russia.

RUSSIA.

The Council of the Russian Empire was to have assembled this week under the presidency of the Emperor, to settle definitively the terms of the Imperial manifesto for the abolition of serfdom. While engaged in this good work the Emperor is no less alive to the disturbed state of the frontiers, and has ordered the formation of three armies—one to march to the Pruth, the second to the frontiers of Poland, and the third to be ready for any other destination.

Prince Orloff, President of the Ministry and the Council of the Empire, has tendered his resignation on account of ill health. He is temporarily replaced in his post of President of the Council of the Empire by M. de Bladoff.

AMERICA.

Mr. Seward made a "grand conciliatory speech" on the 12th ult. He begins by declaring that, before a settlement of the co-troversey between the North and the South can be effected, a truce must take place. He adds that the Union cannot be dissolved without the voluntary consent of all the parties to it. He expatiates upon the advantages which the Union has conferred upon the nation at large, and upon the position of authority and influence which it has obtained for America in the civilised world. He argues that the formation of two confederacies would greatly diminish the prestige of the country in the eyes of the world, and that their mutual jealousies would soon involve them in terrible struggles for the supremacy, and lead to still further divisions of territory. He admits the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Law, but recommends that it should be divested of some of its more odious features—only, however, to the extent of preventing free coloured men from being sent into slavery. He advises the repeal by the Northern States of their Personal Liberty Laws; and he would be willing to amend the Constitution so as to deprive Congress for ever of the power to abolish slavery in any State. Instead of proposing a reduction of the tariff, which might, perhaps, exercise a conciliatory influence at the South, he pledges himself to secure, if possible, the construction of two Pacific railroads, one connecting the mouths of the Mississippi, and the other Missouri and the lakes, with the western seaboard. Mr. Seward is careful not to commit himself to any scheme of compromise which would extend slavery into the territories. His speech fails to satisfy the South, and has offended some of his own party. It may, however, produce a favourable impression in some of the border States.

Mr. Buchanan's special message to Congress has appeared. He leaves to that body the responsibility of initiating a war policy, while at the same time he strongly condemns the conduct of the seceding States in taking possession of Federal property, and justifies the employment of defensive measures. He expresses his approval of the proposal to draw a line, on one side of which slavery may, and on the other may not, exist. The only suggestion he makes is, that a National Convention should be held for the purpose of considering measures of adjustment.

At latest dates Mr. Crittenden's resolutions were still kept in abeyance in the Senate. In the House of Representatives Mr. Bigler,

of Pennsylvania, had presented a bill proposing amendments to the Constitution, substantially the same as those proposed by Mr. Crittenden. A part of Mr. Bigler's scheme was to submit the compromise to a popular vote on the 12th of February. A show of resistance to the passing of the Army and Navy Appropriation Bills was made by the Southern representatives; but a compromise was effected in the shape of an agreement that a three days' debate on the subject should take place. A Select Committee of five was sitting on the President's message, and they had instructions to report as soon as possible upon his Excellency's recommendation that the questions in dispute between the North and South should be submitted to a direct vote of the people.

Fears were seriously entertained that an attempt would be made to capture Washington before the 4th of March, and one of the representatives for Ohio had made an effort to appoint a day for considering a bill for the organisation and discipline of the militia in the district of Columbia, but it had been defeated by one vote.

A scheme for the purchase of the slaves of the border States is under discussion in Baltimore. Some leading citizens of that city had held interviews on the subject with several Northern members of Congress, and these gentlemen expressed their belief that the North would favourably entertain the proposition. There would be cause for rejoicing if in this way Maryland, Delaware, and Missouri could be converted into Free States and kept in the Union. It is calculated that all the negroes in these States may be bought for less than 100,000,000 dollars.

South Carolina had dispatched Col. Hayn to Washington to demand the surrender of Fort Sumter, and had informed Captain Anderson of their intention to capture the fort if not quietly surrendered. A somewhat unlooked-for circumstance is reported from New York—viz., an enthusiastic demonstration of working men in that city against coercing the Southern States.

From Mexico it is reported that Miramon has sustained a total defeat, and that Juarez, leader of the Constitutional party and a pure Indian, has been summoned to Mexico. He is already in possession of the coast.

INDIA.

By the arrival of the India mail we have received the report of a very important meeting in Calcutta, which was signalled by the union, for the first time since the mutinies, of the European and native population. The cause of the meeting appears to have been the grant of half a million sterling made by Sir Charles Wood to the Mysore Princes, the descendants of Tippoo Sultan. The representative character of the demonstration will be understood when we state that it included among the Europeans the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Master of the Trades' Association, and the leading barrister at the Calcutta Bar; and among the natives an influential Hindoo zemindar, the President of the British India Association, and the leader of the Mahomedan community. A petition to the House of Commons was unanimously adopted. The petition, after describing the financial embarrassments of the Government, the deficit for the current year being above six millions sterling, denounces the grant made to the Mysore Princes as being opposed to the representations of the last and present Governor-General, and of the late Mr. Wilson. The petition then protests against the excessive military expenditure in India, complaining that the estimates for "the military expenditure of England are lightened at the cost of the estimates for India." In conclusion, the petitioners call upon the House of Commons to relieve them from the irresponsible action of the Secretary of State, by requiring that a detailed account of the expenditure shall be published; by rendering members of the Indian Council eligible to be elected to the Imperial Parliament; by requiring the Secretary of State to refer all matters relating to expenditure to the Indian Government before action thereupon; and by admitting non-official members to the Legislative Council.

The *Calcutta Englishman* says:—"The Sikh difficulty remains without any marked change for the present. Dr. Campbell having got back to Darjeeling, and many of the missing of his party having turned up, the loss in men is not so heavy as at first supposed. It is said that Dr. Campbell refused to have a stronger force to 'annex' five hundred square miles of a recalcitrant Prince's country. From the latest accounts, although there was enough of danger and uncertainty in the position of the inhabitants of Darjeeling to render the more timid portion of them extremely uncomfortable, and though the Bootas, clad by their partial success, were swarming in the district, armed and insolent, there is no danger for the present to our position there, as a strong force was marching rapidly up to Darjeeling. Unfortunately we lost in this petty raid 'the gun' with which Mr. Campbell undertook to punish the Rajah of Sikkim and 'annex' a province, and left behind us the flag he planted in ratification of the 'annexation'; and, under the circumstances, we may thank our lucky stars it was no worse."

The court-martial on the officers who desecrated the Great Mosque at Cairo commenced to sit on the 1st ult. at Calcutta. Colonel Palmer is president, and the members are three Lieutenant-Colonels, eight Majors, and two Captains, besides two Captains "in waiting." The first officer on trial is Lieutenant Wm. C. L. Brown, of the Bengal Artillery.

CHINA.

We have news from Peking to Nov. 10, when that capital had been evacuated by the allies. The entire force reached Tien-Tsin without any remarkable occurrence. A garrison of about 5000 men is left in occupation of that important place. The rest of the force was sent southward. Chusan has been evacuated, or, if any troops do remain, the number is very small. About 3000 men occupy Shanghai. The remainder of the British land force have reached Hong-Kong, a great portion of the same being under orders for England and India. A portion of the fleet will winter at Japan.

The Earl of Elgin was at Shanghai, and had promulgated the ratified Treaty of Tien-Tsin (made June, 1858), the Convention lately made at Peking, and the tariff and regulations of trade. The Canton Consul had circulated them, but the foreign Customs refused to recognise them, and continued to levy duties upon the old tariff.

There was a rumour very prevalent that the Tien-Tsin garrison was menaced by large hordes of Tartars, and that Mr. Adkins, who was left in charge of the British Embassy at Peking, had been murdered. The fact of the first instalment of the indemnity having been paid at Tien-Tsin, as also that of a large sum being paid at Canton on account of British claims, are relied upon as tangible proofs of the incorrectness of the rumour.

The Earl of Elgin had obtained the privilege of trade upon the Yangtze. The treaty makes the concession dependent on the rebels being driven from it. The troops were to join in the endeavour to carry trade up the Yangtze.

The rebellion becomes worse and worse.

RESULTS OF THE TRIAL OF ENGLISHMEN AT BONN.—An event has just occurred in Prussia which materially affects the issue of the late trial of the English in Bonn, and is not the least remarkable part of the affair. One of the English, it may be remembered, had been condemned on the 24th of December to pay 100 thalers, and four others 25 thalers each, besides costs, the rest being acquitted. Many of their German friends advised them to appeal from this sentence; but, at a meeting held on the 26th of December, it was resolved not to do so. At the same time it was agreed, by equal contributions from each of the accused, to defray the expenses of the trial. The money accordingly was so raised. The fees of counsel and other incidental charges, amounting to about 180 thalers (or £28), were forthwith paid, and a larger sum was retained for the payment of fines and costs, as soon as they should be demanded. No one thought that a remission or modification of the sentence was likely to follow, neither was any attempt made to seek it. But on the 2nd of January, a few hours before the expiration of the time within which an appeal might have been lodged, King Frederick William IV. of Prussia died, and with the accession of William I. came the usual proclamation of pardon for all political crimes, including the particular class of offences which the English had been accused. Unfortunately, the relief comes in such a shape as to make it impossible for any to regard it either as an act of justice or an act of favour.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE SICILIES—PIEDMONT.

The obstinacy of Francis II. has, it appears, been overcome by the tremendous fire from the Sardinian guns. A telegram from Naples, dated the 28th, informs us that on the previous day a flag of truce was sent from Gaeta to the fleet, and that an Italian steamer thereupon proceeded to the fortress, when the firing ceased on both sides. It may be reasonably supposed the object of the besieged is to treat for the surrender of the place. The fire from the batteries of Gaeta is said to have been feeble, which, however, is scarcely reconcilable with the fact that on the morning of the 23rd the Sardinian fleet withdrew in order to repair damages.

Before this news arrived King Francis II. had issued another appeal to the Sovereigns of Europe to come to his relief, and save him from the perils by which he is now environed, owing to the defection of his quasi friend the Emperor of the French. It is not to be believed, he says, that the Sovereigns of Europe will any longer remain impassible at the spectacle of a King despoiled of his states by the most iniquitous aggressions, a prey to all the horrors of a long bombardment; and hopes that in the unequal struggle which is about to continue the Powers of Europe will declare "yes" or "no" whether they recognise the blockade by the squadrons now in the power of Piedmont; and, if this blockade be not recognised, his Majesty has at least the confidence that a collective summons will be sent to the King of Sardinia to guarantee his liberty if the hazards of a desperate siege should respect his life, and to secure against outrage the person of the Queen.

A telegram from Naples states that a treasonable correspondence, which had been going forward between Gaeta and certain parties in that city, and which it pronounces to be of high importance, has just been discovered.

The elections to the Italian Parliament have been conducted with tranquillity and good order. So far as we have returns yet the results are generally in favour of the Ministry, and the Mazzinian party is beaten. For Turin, Cavour, Minghetti, and Cossiga have been elected; for Naples, Poerio and Garibaldi. The latter, however, has declared that he will not accept a representative post. Among the names returned in the northern provinces are those of General Cialdini, Admiral Persano, and General La Marmora. 134 have been already elected. Bertani has been defeated at Milan, Gierrazzi in Leghorn, and Mordini in Lucca.

Liberio Romano, Neapolitan Minister of the Interior, has appointed a commission for the publication of historical documents concerning the Bourbon dynasty, taken from the archives at Naples, and dating from 1790 to 1860.

A letter from Messina, dated the 22nd ult., states that 364 women, wives and daughters of the principal officers of Francis II.'s army at Gaeta, had arrived at that city; they were placed at the Lazaretto, where they were in great distress from want of food. A number also of Francis II.'s officers had arrived, and wished to join the troops in the citadel, but the General in command refused to admit them; they, therefore, had nothing left but to go to the Lazaretto, where they were almost starving.

THE DIPLOMATISTS AT GAETA.

The Roman correspondent of the *Times* gives an amusing account of the excuses invented by the diplomatists who recommend King Francis to hold out at Gaeta, but who, on being requested to stay with him, were considerably embarrassed:—

It is quite surprising how many good reasons some had to show for returning to Rome, and how manifest they made it that their stay at Gaeta was impossible. The Minister of a great northern Power thought it would be inconsistent with the dignity of his Imperial master that his representative should remain in such a place as Gaeta. The *Chargé d'Affaires* of another of the five great Potentates would have remained had he been Minister; but he was only a secretary, and consequently too unimportant a person; and, moreover, he had no instructions. Want of instructions was, of course, a pretext open to all. The Minister of a petty southern King would certainly have stopped, but he was accredited to the Pope as well as to the King of Naples, and the Pope could not do without him. To this there was nothing to be said; no one could presume to decide how far the gentleman's presence in Rome was deemed indispensable by his Holiness. An elderly Minister, also accredited to Rome, had a young wife, who would never consent to his prolonged absence; and the representative of another small Power must return to the Eternal City because he had left his despatch-boxes open and had forgotten to give instructions to his coachman. Excellent, good reasons, all of them, no doubt; but they did not appear so to the Austrian Envoy, who is reported to have characterised the recital of his colleagues in rather strong terms. The most piteous predicament was that of the Pope's Nuncio, who found himself caught in his trap—lured on the twig he himself had laid. The worthy and reverend gentleman, timid like many of his class, had been eager to pay a flying visit to Gaeta during the armistice, but he had no notion that he would be asked to remain there during the bombardment. It was a most disgusting position, but there was no escape from it. He had been the prime promoter of the expedition, and had already incurred censure for over-promptitude in leaving his post; the King wished him to stay, and stay he must. When my informant last saw the poor man he was being assisted, in a half-fainting state, into a cell prepared for him in a casemate, where at the present moment he is probably engaged in exorcising Sardinian shells and other diabolical inventions by the help of a rosary and of a tub of holy water.

THE PAPAL STATES.

The Pontifical troops have succeeded in surprising the Sardinians. Favoured by night, the Papal Zouaves fell on the Sardinian volunteers at Correse, killed two, wounded six, and made fifty prisoners, whom they carried to Rome. The Piedmontese on their part are not idle, but are threatening the province of Frosinone, and pursuing the reactionary bands on the frontier, who are greatly dispirited and discouraged. Several insurrectionary bands, having retired before the Sardinian troops, took shelter in the Convent of Casmali, in the Roman territory. Hither the Sardinians followed them, attacked and set fire to the convent, and dispersed the rebels. The monks saved themselves by flight ere the attack commenced. On Monday 2000 Sardinians, with cavalry and artillery, attacked the reactionary troops at Canco. The fight lasted seven hours. The Piedmontese and Neapolitans afterwards evacuated the Pontifical territory.

General Goyon has addressed a despatch to the Intendente of Rieti, declaring that he had not been aware of the movement of Pontifical troops towards the frontiers at Correse, and that the Government of the Pope had given orders for the recall of these troops.

THE MYSTIC PRINCES.—A correspondent, who signs himself "One who served under Gillespie on the 10th of July, 1866," says the British public will be more startled at the grant to Tipoo's descendants, made on the ground of a document of 1799, when it is known that the Princes turned out rebels and murderers in 1806. "Yet such is the case. I myself saw them firing on us from the windows of their palace on the 10th of July, 1806, and I happened to be one of the two officers who prevented the enraged soldiers from entering the palace, when they would all have been instantly massacred. We did this in the confident expectation that they would all meet their deserved fate at the hands of the executioner. It is a novel doctrine that rebellion and murder do not invalidate claims on the State, and it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State for India will be able to enlighten us on this subject. As one who saw the murdered bodies of our countrymen lying in the streets and the calcined bones of the sick who had been thrown into a fire in front of the hospital, I cannot but feel interested in the matter. The murders were counted only by tens, but had it not been for the gallant Gillespie they would have extended to thousands." By the 6th article of the Partition Treaty of Mysore in 1799, on which all these pensions rest, it is expressly provided:—"In the event of any hostile attempt on the part of the said family, or of any member of it, against the authority of the contracting parties, or against the peace of their respective dominions or the territories of the Rajah of Mysore, then the said English East India Company Behander shall be at liberty to limit or suspend entirely the payment of the whole or any part of the stipend herein before stipulated to be applied to the maintenance and support of the said families."

RUSSIA AND FRANCE.—The circumstance of the proposal for an exchange of the Bank of France of £1,200,000 in silver for gold from the Imperial Bank at St. Petersburg having been broken off (says the *Times*) has created surprise, and led to conjectures as to the possibility of political feeling having been mixed up with the event. The arrangement was considered an accomplished fact both in Paris and St. Petersburg; but the Emperor of Russia is understood at the last moment to have refused his sanction.

ENGLAND AND THE DANISH DUCHIES.

THE *Elberfeld Gazette*, which has the reputation of being a semi-official organ of the Prussian Government, publishes the text of Lord John Russell's despatch to Berlin tendering the Danish proposals for the settlement of the Schleswig and Holstein business. Lord John Russell writes as follows:—

As the Danish Government is animated by a sincere desire to put an end to the difference that unfortunately has so long subsisted between Denmark and the Germanic Confederation on the subject of the Duchy of Holstein, it has resolved on making a fresh effort to attain that wished-for result.

The Danish Government is convinced that it would be a useless attempt, under existing circumstances, and with the irritation now prevalent in Holstein, to aim at establishing, once for all and definitively, the constitutional position that Duchy is to assume in the Monarchy; and that, consequently, it is necessary to prepare the way by a temporary arrangement for a definitive one, which will gain time to allow of reflection and of overtures to the two Powers directly interested—the Provincial States of Holstein and the Danish Government.

For this purpose the Danish Government is ready to adopt the following modifications in the actually existing state of things:—

"The consultative vote conferred on the States of Holstein by paragraph 2 of the Royal patent of the 23rd of September, 1859, shall be changed into a deliberative vote, so that no law, whether concerning individuals or property, shall be put into force in Holstein without the assent of the States of that Duchy. It is to be hoped that the common interests of the Supreme Council and of the States of Holstein will lead to an understanding between them on the subject of matters submitted to their discussion. But, in spite of reiterated efforts from the Government, misunderstanding should continue to prevail between the two Assemblies in reference to business too important to be remitted to a more distant epoch, the Danish Government binds itself on the part of the Monarchy, on the Assembly of which it has imposed a precise rule, not to carry out that rule, and to limit its action to that part of the Monarchy whose Assembly has approved it.

"In order to bring about an understanding between the different parties in the two Assemblies it might perhaps be necessary to adopt special measures—as, for instance, the appointment of a committee of an equal number of members for both Assemblies. However, without going into details on that point at present, it must be observed that the Danish Government will abstain from all intermixture in the decision come to by either of the Assemblies.

"As regards financial arrangements, the amount that the finances special to Holstein shall have to pay towards the common expenses of the Monarchy shall be fixed once for all at 850,000 thalers—the sum that has been paid by the Duchy on an average of the last six years. So long as no augmentation of that sum shall be necessary, the States of Holstein shall exercise no control over its employment; but, if the necessities of the State should require an increase in the financial resources, the augmentation of the sum fixed may be imposed on the finances only by a Royal ordinance, after the previous free approval of the States.

"The Prussian Government will doubtless recognise in the preceding propositions the spirit of conciliation by which the Danish Government is animated. Should these measures be carried into execution, the States of Holstein will be able to exercise on measures concerning the Duchy the same control as that which the Supreme Council possesses over measures interesting the other portions of the Monarchy; and it is therefore to be hoped that this plan, when presented at Frankfurt by the Danish Ministry, will meet with the support of Prussia.

"But the Danish Government is ready to go still further on the path of conciliation. Undoubtedly it cannot and will not allow of any right in Germany to intermeddle in the affairs of Holstein. All the concessions that may be made to that Duchy must proceed exclusively from the free pleasure of the Danish Government, and cannot be considered as giving to the Diet any authority in Schleswig.

"As a proof of the kindly sentiments with which the Danish Government is animated, and of its desire to do away with some of the inconveniences that have excited complaint, it is ready, on the condition that the Diet gives its approbation to the above-stated temporary arrangement for Holstein, to introduce the following modifications into the laws at present in force in Schleswig:—

"1. The religious act of confirmation may be performed in the language preferred by those interested.

"2. Private education is permitted, on condition that the usual public examinations shall be submitted to.

"3. A complete amnesty shall be granted for all political offences, and individuals under sentence shall be reinstated in their political rights.

"4. Assemblies and meetings of the inhabitants of Schleswig and Holstein, provided they have no political object, shall be allowed, with the condition that they shall not take the title of a Schleswig-Holstein meeting.

"Such are some of the measures that the Danish Government will be ready to introduce forthwith, and it will hereafter consent, perhaps, to several others in addition.

"It is now for the Prussian Government to judge if there be not here matter sufficient to smooth the road toward an understanding between Germany and Denmark, and if it would not be prudent on the part of the former, in the critical position in which Europe now is, to profit by the conciliatory sentiments that influence Denmark to put an end to a question that has been so long pending."

RUSSIAN VIEWS OF THE CHINESE WAR.

An article in the *Northern Bee* contains the following observations on the result of the late Chinese war:—

It is astonishing that the allies made such moderate demands when treating for peace with the brother of the Emperor. The Chinese did not expect such generosity from their enemies, whose prisoners they treated in such a barbarous manner, and have therefore good reason to chuckle at being let off so cheaply, for there have been times when the capital has fallen into the hands of enemies who plundered both the Government and the inhabitant without compunction. China has now only a comparatively small indemnity to pay for the war expenses, as compared with what they had to pay to England in 1842, when the contribution amounted to five millions of roubles. The moderation of the victors this time remains a mystery, and the question naturally presents itself, would the Chinese have been let off so cheaply had they had to do with the English alone? In this affair we can but admire the far-sighted policy of France. When England commenced hostilities with China, under a very thin pretext, and the Emperor Napoleon might easily have shown his sympathy for the rebellion of the natives in India, which required the withdrawal of the troops destined for China and their immediate employment in quelling the dangerous mutiny of the Sepoys, France offered England her assistance and co-operation in punishing the Chinese. At that time it was frequently said that England was employing France to get the Chinese out of the fire, but it is now clear that those persons took a very short-sighted view of the affairs of the East, for England would have still been in time to chastise China after having first put down the rebellion in India; and in making war on China with their own resources solely they would have dictated the terms of peace according to their own interests. After the capture of Peking they wanted to go to work in their own fashion, and place the head of the insurgents on the throne of China; but the French were of a different opinion, and their English allies did not further insist on it, but yielded the point. It cannot be denied that France has obtained a great moral preponderance in the East, and the eyes of all the countries situated on the Pacific and Southern Oceans are now turned towards that generous nation which declined to take part in the demands of their avaricious and interested allies. If the Chinese empire be preserved to the present reigning dynasty, they will not forget the important service that France rendered them in the moment of danger. This manoeuvre of the Emperor Napoleon was worthy of his superior genius, for by it he has outwitted the calculations of routine which have hitherto governed the relations between Europe and the East. France will now enjoy all the advantages that England and India obtain by the treaty, with, moreover, the great moral influence of being considered the protector of the Catholics in the East. The superior aptitude of the Catholic missionaries for proselytism is well known. The Protestant religion does not ingratiate itself so much to the taste and character of the Orientals, and therefore England cannot expect to compete successfully with the Church of Rome in this field. This is the reason why France has already obtained a much greater footing in China than England has or ever will have in India.

The *Northern Bee* then proceeds to demonstrate that the emigration of the Chinese, to which England raised so many objections, is more favourable, or at least less dangerous, to France, and that the Chinese have ever shown themselves exceedingly punctilious in executing to the letter the stipulations of treaties, as is proved by their relations with Russia of more than two centuries, though the latter has often had to swallow many a bitter pill from that quarter.

BOUNTY TO SEAMEN.—We lately stated that the Lords of the Admiralty had decided on withdrawing bounty money to seamen on their entry into the service. We presume that, on reconsideration of the matter, their Lordships have not deemed it advisable to follow up their original intentions; for now we find that it is intended to retain the practice, but on a reduced scale.

THE PROVINCES.

THE QUEEN AND THE COVENTRY WEAVERS.—In addition to her liberal donation, and to her encouraging patronage of their skill, the Queen has communicated to the Coventry trade a pattern of ribbon found in the Summer Palace of the Emperor of China. The "Pekin Palace ribbon" will, when produced, be eagerly sought after, not only as a curiosity, but as a memorial of her Majesty's goodness and of the gallantry of her troops.—Lord Leigh has offered, through the Coventry School of Art, to give two medals—a gold one for the best fancy ribbon, in style, make, and harmony of colour; and a silver one for the best six designs for ribbons. Lady Leigh is about to give a prize for the best plain ribbon, having special reference to cheapness as well as quality.

EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR AT CAMBRIDGE.—A scene of the most extraordinary character took place in Cambridge last week in the shape of a fracas between two members of that ancient and honourable University, both holding office in the Church. It would appear that the Rev. J. P. Brockhurst, of Emmanuel College, has been writing a work in favour of the admission of Jews to Parliament, and certain passages from this work were quoted by a mutual friend to the Rev. E. Dodd, Fellow of Magdalen College, and Vicar of St. Giles's, Cambridge. Mr. Dodd expressed his opinion freely upon the quoted passages from the MS., and applied some not very complimentary epithets to Mr. Brockhurst. Mr. Dodd's expressions reached the ears of Mr. Brockhurst, and an estrangement was the consequence. Matters were, however, brought to an climax when both gentlemen were dining in the Magdalen Hall, and Mr. Dodd made an omission in the prescribed grace, and assigned the presence of Mr. Brockhurst as a reason. On Wednesday, during the procedure of dinner in Magdalen Hall, Mr. Brockhurst arrived in the screens, and sent in a message saying that a gentleman wished to speak to Mr. Dodd. The answer returned was that the gentleman would proceed to Mr. Dodd's rooms the latter would be there immediately. Mr. Brockhurst replied (by the messenger) that if Mr. Dodd was not soon out he would fetch him out, as his business was imminent. Mr. Dodd then proceeded to the door of the college hall, and there encountered Mr. Brockhurst. Some words ensued, and at the close of the parley (which was very short) Mr. Brockhurst produced a strong riding whip from under his coat, and belaboured Mr. Dodd over the shoulder, and exclaimed at every stroke, "Take that!" Mr. Dodd retreated to his rooms, and, on reaching his staircase, called to one of the college porters to eject Mr. Brockhurst from the college. Mr. Brockhurst defied the porter, and, flinging the whip after Mr. Dodd, challenged him to retaliate if he dare, and "if he had any of the pluck of an Englishman." Mr. Brockhurst, on emerging from the college, intimated to numbers of the passers-by that he had been well horsewhipped a fellow who well deserved it. So the matter remains.

INTIMIDATION.—During the night of yesterday week a brickmaker, Mr. John Kirk, at Ashton-under-Lyne, was aroused by a frightful explosion in his house, caused, as was discovered on examination, by several bottles of naphtha which had been thrown in through the window. A stone bottle filled with gunpowder was also found on the floor. This is another of those "trade outrages" so common of late.

MURDER AT LIVERPOOL.—Two Irishmen, named Cassidy and Donnan, quarrelled while drinking on Saturday night, when Cassidy plunged a knife into Donnan's neck, causing him to drop dead on the spot. Cassidy's uncle went to lift up the body of the murdered man, on which the murderer rushed at him, stabbing him several times, and leaving him on the ground in a state of unconsciousness. The assassin has not yet been apprehended. The above occurrence happened in Johnson-street; and in the same street on Sunday morning, as some women were discussing the tragedy of the previous evening, a woman named Bridget Winter was stabbed in the forehead by her companion, Ann Johnson. A mere difference of opinion provoked the brutality. The woman was brought before the magistrates and remanded for seven days.

AN HEREDITARY MALFACTOR.—On Saturday, at Norwich Castle, James Blomfield Rush, son of the murderer Rush, was charged with breaking into the house of a Mr. Cannell, of Cingleford, and stealing some children's dresses and miscellaneous articles of the collective value of £4. The case against the prisoner was a very simple one, the property having been found in the house occupied by the prisoner at Wymondham, while a knife-blade which was taken from his pocket when he was apprehended corresponded with impressions on some drawers which had been tampered with, though not broken open. The prisoner, who, by the advice of his professional adviser, "reserved his defence," was committed for trial. The presiding magistrate, however, admitted him to bail—himself £100, and two sureties in £50.

WHAT IS DONE FOR RAGGED SCHOOLS.—In a letter to the *Times* Mr. Alderley explains what is done for ragged schools by Government:—"The following is the actual practice of the Committee of Council in relation to ragged schools:—By a minute of Dec., 1857, they may receive one half of the rent of the premises in which industrial instruction is carried on, one-third of the cost of tools and materials, 5s. per annum per industrial scholar, aid in purchasing books, maps, and apparatus; easier conditions as to the qualifications of masters, whose salaries the committee will augment; and, if the school be certified, it receives £7 10s. for every child per annum, and £10, or for females £27, for every person in training as teacher, on certain conditions. From this it appears that ragged schools are far from 'receiving nothing,' and if they are certified as industrial schools they receive a very large capitation grant on every child admitted under the check of an order of admission from a responsible public officer, which order has been loosely stigmatised as a criminal sentence, and is therefore represented by Sir J. Pakington as an impossible condition to the receipt of the aid to which it is attached."

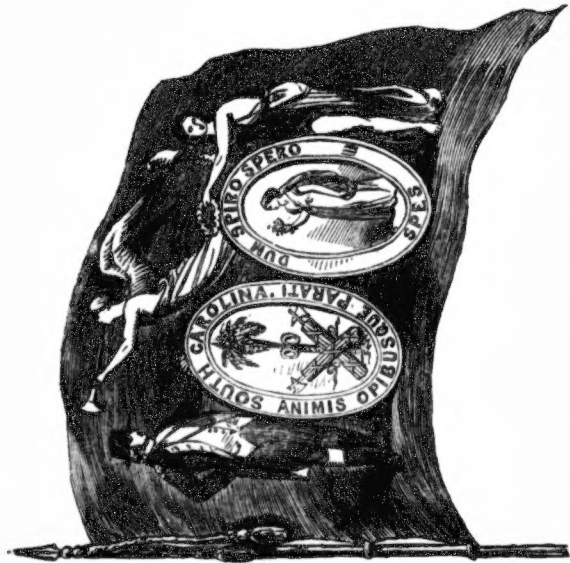
THE HOP-DUTY MOVEMENT.—Worcestershire and Herefordshire are following in the wake of Kent and Sussex in regard to the hop-duties repeal movement. On Saturday a meeting of the planters of these two counties was held at Worcester, when a resolution maintaining the necessity for immediate repeal, and a petition to the House of Commons on the subject, were adopted. A district committee was also formed to co-operate with the central one. Sir J. Pakington and other gentlemen who were not present, on the occasion expressed by letter their concurrence in the relief sought.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER A GAOLER.—At Chester on Saturday Thomas O'Brien was committed to take his trial on a charge of attempting to murder one of the gaol warders. In consequence of misbehaviour while at exercise on Tuesday week, O'Brien and another prisoner named Kater were to be brought before the governor. Dunning, a gaoler, having opened the door of O'Brien's cell, was about to summon Kater, who was in confinement on the opposite side of the ward, when he was struck violently on the head by a piece of iron, thrown at him by the prisoner, whom he saw on turning round, with the iron, which he had picked up again, and a stone in his hands. The deputy-governor called to O'Brien, remonstrating with him, but was met by loud threats of "having his brains knocked out." The other prisoner then interfered, and O'Brien pursued him along the ward. The deputy-governor fortunately embraced this opportunity, and, following O'Brien, succeeded in laying hold of his arms and securing him. When brought before the governor, the prisoner, on seeing Dunning, who was present, though weak and exhausted from loss of blood, exclaimed, "I'll have your sacred life, either while I'm here or after my discharge." The warder's wounds are not very serious. O'Brien had been convicted of burglary, and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

WRECK IN THE MERSEY.—A splendid vessel, of nearly 2000 tons, the *Telemach*, from Bombay, was completely wrecked on Saturday while endeavouring to enter the Albert Dock, Liverpool. As she was rounding the wall her heel caught the tail of one of the banks, and her heel, over which one of the anchors was suspended, was swung round with such force against the wall that the starboard bow was stove in, while the centre of the vessel being thrown across the sharp ridge of the bank, she broke her back, and the water rushing in through the strained and several planks, she filled rapidly and went down. The *Telemach* was laden with cotton, linseed, hemp, and wool. Fortunately no personal injuries were sustained.

MR. BRIGHT ON EASTER DUES.—Mr. Bright, M.P., has forwarded a letter to the association formed at Accrington in opposition to the collection of Easter dues. Mr. Bright says:—"It is amazing that any clergyman in our day should attempt to continue an exaction so unjust and so odious, but I hope the spirit of your district will resist it to the utmost of their power. I do not know what chance there is that Parliament will grant you any relief. Parliament is unwilling to touch the Church in any of its ancient rights or wrongs. There is, however, one remedy left, and that is a passive resistance to the injustice sought to be inflicted on you; and this may be accomplished with effect if you have an association that will support those who are attacked by the clergyman and the law. Perhaps it would be wise to take the matter to a higher tribunal. It would create a greater public interest in the question, and might force Parliament to interfere. If you could prevail on either of your county members to introduce a bill to remedy the grievance it would do good. I should be glad to give it any support in my power."

THE GALWAY PACKET SERVICE.—The Postmaster-General notifies that the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, being unable at present to provide vessels for carrying on the mail service between Galway and America, the Postmaster-General has consented to suspend the operation of the company's contract until the 26th of March next, on the understanding that the company will then be prepared to carry on the fortnightly service in a regular and efficient manner, in accordance with the terms of the contract. The next vessel will be dispatched from Galway to Boston, calling at St. John's, Newfoundland, on Tuesday, the 26th of March next, and thence forward on every alternate Tuesday a vessel will be dispatched from Galway, proceeding alternately to New York and Boston.



THE PALMETTO FLAG, BEARING THE NEW COAT OF ARMS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE NEW FLAG OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
THIS particular flag known as the sovereignty flag of South Carolina which that State has recently adopted is represented in the annexed engraving. It is formed of a red ground, with a dark blue cross, on which are fifteen stars (the central one being much larger than any of the others), with a white palmetto-tree, and a crescent in one of the corners. This is, we believe, the first flag which has been put forward by either of the seceding States. South Carolina also boasts a new coat of arms which the Palmetto troops have adopted for their flag. These arms consist of two shields—on one a palmetto-tree, supported by two Roman fasces crossed, and two shields hanging on the tree, with the inscription, "South Carolina," and the legend, "Animis Opibusque Parati;" on the other shield a figure of Hope, with the motto, "Dum Spiro Spero Spes." Over all is a figure of Fame, winged and trumpeted;

a figure of Liberty is on one side, and a soldier in the old Continental uniform on the other.
It was with reference to these new emblems of independent sovereignty put forward by the rebellious Southern State that Mr. Seward, the distinguished United States senator, thus remarked in a recent speech:—"The American man-of-war is a noble spectacle. I have seen it enter an ancient port in the Mediterranean. All the world wondered at it, and talked of it. Salvos of artillery from forts and shipping in the harbour saluted its flag. Princes and Princesses, and merchants paid it homage, and all the people blessed it as a harbinger of hope for their own ultimate freedom. I imagine now the same noble vessel again entering the same haven. The flag of thirty-three stars and thirteen stripes has been hauled down, and in its place a signal is run up which flaunts the device of a lone star or a palmetto-tree. Men ask, 'Who is the stranger that thus steals into our waters?' The answer, contemptuously given, is, 'She comes from one of the obscure Republics of North America. Let her pass on!'"

THE DOCKYARD OF COPENHAGEN.

THE threatening position of affairs between Denmark and Prussia, and the fact that England has undertaken the part of mediator (at present with no great success), will render the accompanying View of the dockyard of Copenhagen interesting. Peace between the disputants is not past hope, but at the same time Denmark, having conceded as much as she can, is making every preparation for war. A Ministerial ordinance has been addressed to all the functionaries whose duties are in any way connected with the calling out of the soldiers for the army, ordering them to take such steps as will enable them to execute, as speedily as possible, the orders for the military convocation already proclaimed, or for any other which may yet be made. The Minister of Marine has ordered the equipment of a steam squadron of twenty-two vessels, including gun-boats and mortar-boats. A reserve force of 800 sailors is ordered to assemble on the 1st of March. The Minister of Marine has also announced that a certain number of captains of merchant-vessels can be received into the naval service, if they are prepared to undergo a course of instruction in the Government training-schools, which will be opened at the beginning of February.
According to the latest documents published, the naval forces of Denmark are composed of forty sail of the line (twenty sailing-vessels and twenty steamers), and seventy smaller vessels; carrying in all 1183 guns. In addition to these vessels, the Danish Navy has nine steam-transports, four of which are building, and will be completed this year.

RUSSIAN VESSELS FROZEN IN AT THE MOUTH OF THE DNEPER.

WALK the weather in England has been so severe that very few, even of the oldest inhabitants, remember any such winter, the reports from

other countries on the Continent or Europe seem to indicate that we have not been alone in the intense and lasting cold which was experienced during the whole Christmas month.

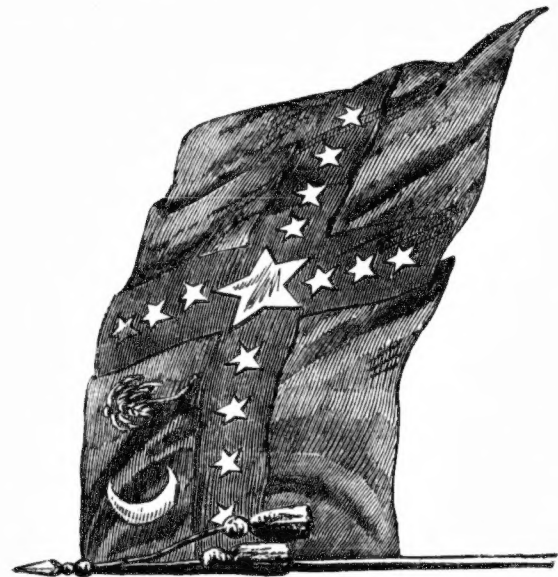
In France the great severity of the frost has driven wolves and other wild animals nearer to human habitations, for the purpose of discovering food; and the poor have endured great privations from the dearth of provisions and the scarcity of labour. Other countries in the north of Europe have been more than ordinarily icebound, and everywhere a rigorous season has made itself felt perhaps all the more from the comparative mildness of some preceding winters.

Russia, of course, is generally accepted as the very head-quarters of cutting frost and numbness. We all remember the story of the great palace of ice constructed for the Imperial builder out of frozen blocks cut from the Neva by the hatchets of a troop of serfs. Not a few of us have wondered at the descriptions of its glittering walls and sparkling vestibules, lighted by a thousand lamps, and have perhaps debated whether the Russian method of warming apartments usual at the period was adopted on the occasion, and a bevy of oily servants driven into the saloons, there to remain until their bodies had given out a sufficient quantity of caloric into the atmosphere. But the weather which has kept us all in anxious anticipation of a thaw has even in Russia been more than ordinary severity; and at the mouth of the Dnieper the vessels of large burden coming from the Black Sea have been paralysed and walled round with ice, which made them appear as though they had been petrified and were to remain there as a monument of the power of the elements.

The ice, indeed, had attained a thickness of more than three feet; and it may be readily imagined that the vessels which came to their anchorages were soon entirely fixed, their rigging actually disappearing, except in rough outline, under the sheets of icicles and frozen moisture with which everything was turned into solid masses, or was veiled by massy drooping festoons of snow or sparkling stalactites. Meanwhile, the crews of the vessels were able to sally forth on the ice in quest of such birds as would serve for a savoury dish for dinner, nothing more being necessary, if they wished to make an excursion, than to descend the side of the ship. The cold, however, was intense; and the first break in the solid substance of the ice soon began to be looked for anxiously enough, since the danger of the first detachment of the block is very considerable, as no vessel is strong enough to stand with impunity against the shock of the frozen masses as they rush on together and heap themselves into a formidable hill of crunching boulders.

THE ICE-HARVEST ON THE NEVA.

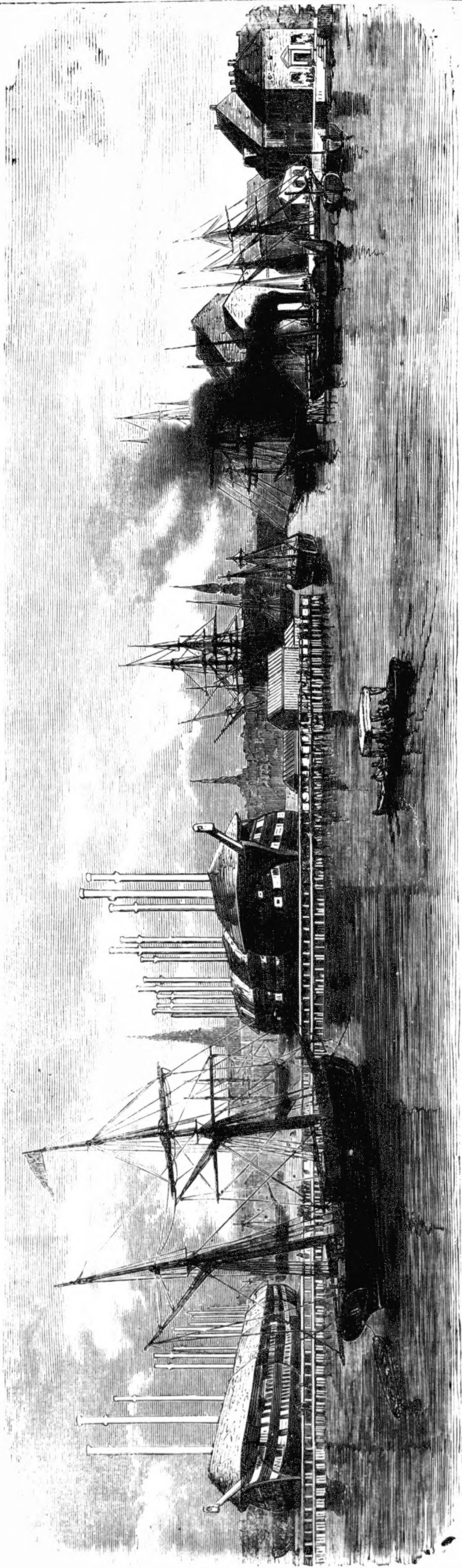
In Russia almost every household has a cellar in which is deposited large slabs of ice—so large that they last the entire season. The cellars are paved with them, and they serve to keep the food cool during the summer. When the winter comes round the remains of the old ice are taken out and fresh ice is put in. The ice-harvest, as it is called, is



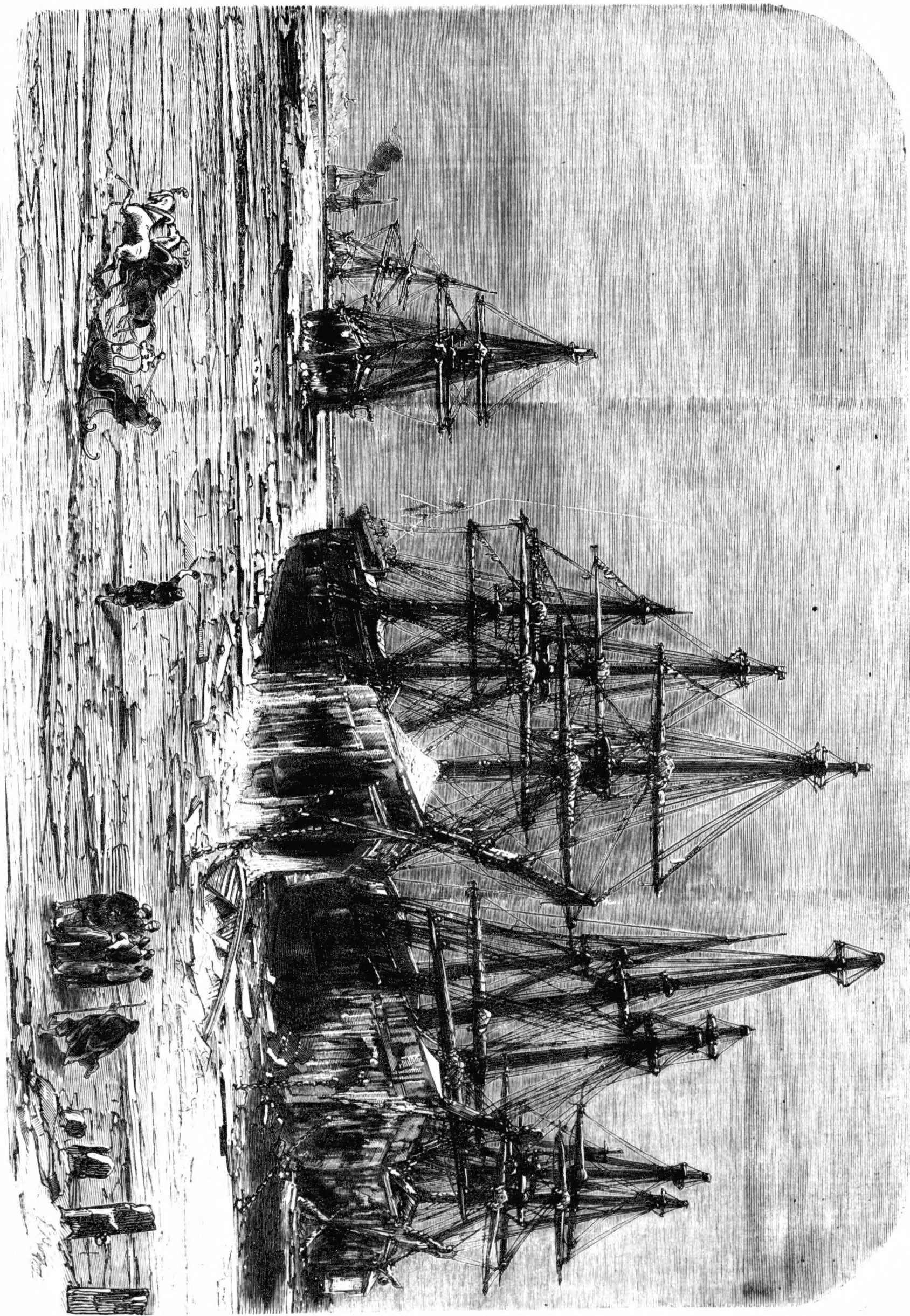
THE NEW SOVEREIGNTY FLAG OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

mostly managed by the Fins, who come to St. Petersburg in large numbers every winter. Here they have certain spaces allotted to them along the centre of the river, and with hatchets and crowbars they cut the large oblong blocks. These are then drawn out of the water by means of a sleigh, with a horse attached. The blocks are then finished, and afterwards deposited in the cellars allotted to their reception.

THE SHIPPING INTEREST.—A deputation of shipowners connected with the port of London waited upon Lord J. Russell yesterday week to ascertain whether the Government purposed taking any steps upon the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the laws respecting reciprocity and belligerent rights. Having heard the special points urged by the deputation, his Lordship assured them that her Majesty's Government would bestow upon it their most serious consideration.



DOCKYARD, COPENHAGEN.



RUSSIAN VESSELS FROZEN IN AT THE MOUTH OF THE DNEIPEP. (FROM A SKETCH BY IVAN IVANOVITCH.)

POLITICIANS ON THE PLATFORM.

THE MEMBERS FOR BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Bright, the members for Birmingham, met their constituents on Tuesday evening, and addressed them on the topics of the day.

Mr. Scholefield objected to increased taxation, and thought next Session a "great opportunity" for a Reform Bill, including a large extension of the franchise, a material alteration in the distribution of seats, and the ballot.

Mr. Bright said that the House of Commons was "reckless and prodigal in its expenditure." "The governing class" was also "guilty of a wasteful expenditure of the public resources." He traced the increase of expenditure from £49,000,000 in 1831 to something like £71,000,000 last year, and said that whatever the Tory party came into office the expense began to creep up. To give his hearers an idea of the amount of £70,000,000, he said:—

"Probably there were about a million agricultural labourers in England and Wales whose average income did not amount to more per head than £25 per annum, so that the wages of the whole body were not more than £25,000,000 per annum, being about three times less than the Parliamentary votes for the year; and, if they added Scotland and Ireland, it was not more than half the taxes which their rulers had the conscience to ask and they had the patience to pay. Take another illustration. In Lancashire there was the most stupendous manufacturing industry which the world had ever seen, which produced at this moment, at the period of its greatest and most astonishing expansion, £70,000,000 worth of yarn and manufacturing cloth. Well, then, our governing classes, our rulers, with the most docile, the most industrious, and probably the most church and chapel going people in the world, devoured every year—this year and last year—certainly more than the whole produce of the most gigantic industry the world had ever seen."

He attacked the House of Lords, as never "objecting to extravagance," and said that "the modern peerage was bred in the slime and corruption of the rotten-borough system." He thus attacked the Army and Navy:—

"These services should be the servants of the nation; their voice as to the magnitude of those services should be held to be of very small account. Civilians ought to determine the amount of danger, and the military were only wanted when certain things were to be done which statesmen and civilians had determined to be necessary; but now these services had become so great that the most palatial clubs built in London of late years were entirely for their accommodation. They had also a special press devoted to their cause, and were allied with the Court, the peerage, and the great territorial interest. There was a constant pressure upon the Government, which the Government found it difficult to resist, and they had great power in Parliament; but all this could not bring about this extravagant expenditure were it not that the people were ill-informed upon these matters."

As regards France, Mr. Bright said that in the two wars in China, and as regards Italy, the conduct of the Emperor had been "friendly, conciliatory, and proper;" also in the Treaty of Commerce and the abolition of the passport system:—

"He admitted that the French Government spent too much upon its military armaments; but it should be borne in mind that the Emperor knew he had not too many friends among the orthodox Monarchs of Europe; that the English aristocracy, whose mouthpiece was the *Times*, did not like him or his family; and that we had in our Navy 84,000 men and boys, being more than all the men and boys in the mercantile marine of France. He complained that Government allowed the false statements made by the press to be repeated by public speakers, while they had not the honesty and the courage to contradict them. For example, they had encouraged the volunteer movement. Some people called it mania, and others patriotism. He would not give it any harsh names, conceiving that many had joined the volunteer force from motives of patriotism. That movement might be regarded in two ways—either they were in danger of some attack from abroad, or they intended to raise a cheap force and so diminish the great expenditure on the regular army. As to any attack from abroad, the Government knew that it was the merest chimera, but they looked to the volunteer force to create a greater taste for military display, so that less pressure might be excited in favour of a reduction of the standing army. Let them not interfere in foreign quarrels and nobody would interfere with them, least of all the Emperor of the French. He believed that if our own Government gave authority to Mr. Cobden to ascertain whether the Government of France would consent to an amicable arrangement by which the navies of the two countries should not pass their present bounds, he believed that it would be received by the French Government with cordial feeling as it received the proposition to make that great Treaty of Commerce. He might be charged with unfavourable feelings towards the Royal families and to people in authority, but he dared to assert that the time would come when the people would discover that they had been unjustly treated, and possibly they might discover that there was no family and no combination of families connected with the Government in this country that was worth £70,000,000 a year."

MR. MONCKTON MILNES, M.P.

Mr. Milnes attended the soirée of the Pontefract Mechanics' Institution on Monday evening, and in a speech reviewed some of the leading topics of the day. He noticed the events occurring during the three or four months of the last year, during which time the great empire of China had been opened to the world; during which the wonderful career of Garibaldi had established in the south of Italy the same freedom for the Sardinian dominions which had been already established in the north; and during which had occurred that event pregnant with the most mischievous consequences, not only to another hemisphere, but, possibly, very injurious to this country—namely, the disruption of the United States of America. There was no one, of whatever party, who did not view with the deepest sorrow the present aspect of affairs in America. All they could hope was that the Tobacco States might check the violent fanaticism of the South, and so mediate between the North and the South as to reduce the evil to its smallest compass and prevent any long and continuous civil war. Here was an institution, begun, perhaps, with no great sense of its wickedness—with no clear feeling of what an abomination it was—carried on until men came to be treated like beasts and placed absolutely in the power of other men, and which had brought on a great calamity that threatened to destroy a magnificent empire, which had established the freest institutions among all diversities of men, accompanied with more material happiness than had, perhaps, existed in any other portion of the globe. Referring to other topics, Mr. Milnes mentioned, as an illustration of the beneficial influences of education and proper training, that the juvenile crime of the country had already been diminished more than one-half by the operation of the reformatory movement. Other gentlemen subsequently addressed the meeting, and the proceedings terminated with the customary vote of thanks.

MR. ROUPELL, M.P.

MR. ROUPELL met his constituents on Monday evening at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, and addressed them on the topics of the day. He referred to the recent distress and the inadequacy of the poor law:—

"The inequality of the poor rates throughout the metropolis was another matter which demanded legislation, since, in his opinion, no valid reason could be assigned for the comparative immunity enjoyed by such parishes as St. George's, where there were hardly any resident poor, while parishes like Lambeth suffered under a heavy burden of taxation for the relief of destitution."

Mr. Roupell reviewed the Parliamentary proceedings of the last Session, protesting against the conduct of the Upper House with regard to the paper duties, and declaring that he would do his utmost in the coming Session to vindicate the privileges of the Commons. The Reform Bill was an inadequate measure, and proved an utter failure. But it was not the fault of the House of Commons that such bills were brought in: it was the fault of the people, and until they spoke out unmistakably no Government would exert themselves to meet the public wishes. There was danger of reaction on this subject as well as with regard to church rates, which he thought were as prejudicial to the Church as they were obnoxious to Dissenters. The Bankruptcy Bill, which was defeated mainly through the jealousy of the lawyers, was another Parliamentary failure. Some defects, no doubt, that measure contained, but he hoped that in the bill shortly to be brought forward those defects would be remedied. Among the few successes of the Session was the Commercial Treaty with France.

Mr. Roupell expressed approval of the volunteer movement.

Mr. Webber asked the honourable member whether he knew of any cause of disagreement between the people of France and England? Mr. Roupell was happy to say that he knew of no such cause. Mr. Webber: Then, why arm? (Cheers and laughter.) Mr. Roupell: Why arm? Because we wish to preserve peace (loud cheers).

A vote of confidence in Mr. Roupell was unanimously passed.

MR. BUXTON, M.P.

Mr. Buxton, M.P., addressed his constituents at Maidstone on Tuesday night upon the disruption of the United States, and its probable effects upon the supply of cotton to this country. Having traced the rise and progress of slavery in America, he urged that the present crisis, though it might seriously affect the existing commerce of the country, would, in the end, prove beneficial, by rendering us less dependent upon the United States, and opening out other fields for the production of the raw material in India, Africa, and our colonial possessions.

MESSRS. BENYON AND MOWBRAY.

The annual dinner of the Berkshire Farmers' Club was held at the George Hotel, Reading, on Saturday, Mr. Benyon, M.P., presiding. In speaking of the relations between the agricultural labourers and their employers, the Chairman took occasion to remind them of the responsibility which devolved upon them to do all in their power for the material and mental elevation of those in their service.

Mr. Mowbray, M.P., who was present by special invitation, spoke of the necessity for an amendment in the laws affecting the title to and sale of land. With regard to the letter urging on the Government a large retrenchment of public expenditure, addressed to the Prime Minister and signed by a number of members of Parliament, the hon. gentleman said that, while he was in favour of the strictest economy in the application of the national income, he trusted that no attempt would be made to curtail and impair those establishments on which the defence of the country depended.

A NEW ORLEANS FIGHT.—Two sugar-brokers of New Orleans—Marot and Flathers—met on the levee, and proceeded to settle a difference they had had. Flathers emptied his pistol (five shots), and Marot fired one shot, some say two. They closed as they fired. After the firing ceased they advanced upon each other with their sugar-augers. Marot received a gash on his forehead; Flathers had one of his thumbs cut in fending off Marot's auger. Marot staggered back and fell, and was picked up by his friends and carried to an adjacent office, where he expired in a few minutes. He had been shot twice through the right thigh and once in the stomach, the last being the fatal shot. Flathers received no other injury than the damage to his thumb.

AN UNFORTUNATE JOKE.—Captain the Hon. J. Colborne has recently undergone the ordeal of a court-martial for having offered an insult to the civil Judge at the Neigherries. Captain Colborne, having had a suit decreed against him, consented, at the suggestion of the Judge, to deposit certain property in court as security, he not being able at the time to satisfy the claim. Amongst the "property" sent was an old pair of trousers, some old boots and shoes, and an old toothbrush. The Judge, not entering into the spirit of the Captain's joke, looked upon this catalogue of valuables as a personal affront, and complained to the military authorities—hence, the court-martial, the result of which has not yet been made public. The most serious charge against Captain Colborne is that of breaking his arrest.

TRADE IN FRANCE.—Trade in France, according to the most trustworthy accounts, is confined within the narrowest limits. The manufacturers have reduced their operations to the execution of orders given by parties whose solvency is undoubted, purchases are made merely from day to day, and this state of things will continue as long as the present uncertainty prevails as to the peace of Europe being maintained. It is rumoured that high official people are not sorry to see this absence of all speculation. They say that a large amount of capital has accumulated in the hands of individuals from the difficulty of finding employment for it, and that, should another loan become necessary, the Government will find subscribers to it more easily.

THE ABBE LACORDAIRE.—The French papers of yesterday week were occupied with full reports of the lengthened addresses delivered by the Abbé Lacordaire and M. Guizot at the interesting ceremony of the installation of the former into the place in the French Academy made vacant by the death of M. de Tocqueville. M. Lacordaire occupied the greater part of his address with a panegyric of his eminent predecessor, and a survey of the work he achieved and the place he held as a thinker and a writer. M. Guizot opened his reply by a striking allusion to the happy change in time and circumstances which allowed of a harmonious co-operation and brotherhood between men of religious opinions so unlike as M. Lacordaire and himself. He then pronounced a high eulogy upon the genius of the eloquent preacher, and recalled to memory the fact that it was the advice of M. Berryer which had urged M. Lacordaire to abandon the profession of the bar, which he had originally chosen, and to give his eloquence a fuller and higher development in the pulpit.

FRENCH HONOUR VINDICATED.—The *Augsburg Gazette* affirms that the following extraordinary, and apparently quite apocryphal, epistle has been addressed by Marshal Pelissier to General Cialdini:—"Sir, You are in your last proclamation that you have made a French General (Lamoricière, we presume) fly. Knowing you as I know you, I know you to be perfectly incapable of such a thing. But your falsehood acquires so much the more gravity and absurdity if it applies itself to a General who is braver than I. I do not wish to finish this certification here, but I reserve to myself to do so with the tip of my boot if ever I meet you as in the Crimea. Pelissier to Cialdini."

DR. BAILY KILLED ON THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—On Monday the down-train to Portsmouth, when at a short distance beyond Wimbledon, met with a disaster which threw from the line a tender and four carriages, producing most dreadful results. One passenger, Dr. Baily, a distinguished member of the medical profession, and the Queen's Physician, was killed instantaneously, and some others were very seriously injured. A lady, the daughter of General Power, of Southsea; a Mr. Fellingier, belonging to Farnham, Surrey; and one of the collectors on the railway named George Mail, are all lying at St. Thomas's Hospital, suffering to a greater or less extent.

CHATHAM PRISON.—The convicts at this prison have been nearly subdued now; yet individual attacks on the warders still occasionally occur. On Sunday morning, just before the time for attending Divine service, a convict named Ledger made a murderous assault on one of the warders named Hayler. The warder had occasion to speak to Ledger, when the latter turned upon him and dealt him a formidable blow in the face which instantly brought him to the ground. He then continued his attack by savagely kicking him about the head and body with his heavy boots. Two or three warders were immediately on the spot, when the convict was seized and placed in irons.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESS.—The *Moniteur* announces that a first warning has been given to the *Courrier du Dimanche*. The letter of Count Persigny, Minister of the Interior, in explaining the reasons for this decision, says:—"I should betray the interests of the State in tolerating discussion on the principle of the Imperial Government, and still less that this principle should be outraged." The Minister adds:—"I have learnt that M. Ganecco, author of the article in question, and editor of the *Courrier du Dimanche*, is a foreigner. I am astonished that he should have come here to insult the institutions of France, and I have ordered the Prefect of Police to expel him from France."

CURIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A CLERGYMAN.—At the Brentford Petty Sessions on Saturday the Rev. Dr. Giles, Curate of the rural parish of Perivale, in the county of Middlesex, appeared before the magistrates to answer the summons of his churchwarden, Mr. Collins, charging him with feloniously stealing a leaden coffin and converting the same to his use. It appeared that an old leaden coffin had been found in the churchyard, and it contained a few human bones, which the defendant had collected and reinterred. He sold the coffin for old lead, intending with the proceeds to pay for a stone to put over their remains. The Bench, without hearing the evidence, decided that they had no jurisdiction in the case, and left the churchwarden to bring an action for trespass, or to take proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Court. The summons was dismissed, the rev. gentleman stating that he had a complete answer to the case.

THE TELEGRAPH TO FRANCE.—The French Government has determined to reduce the tariff for telegraphic messages between France and Great Britain from the 1st of February next. A message containing not more than twenty words between London and Paris, Havre, Amiens, or Rouen, under the new tariff will cost 6d.; Calais and Boulogne, 3f.; Bordeaux, Lyons, and Nantes, 9f.; St. Malo, 7f. 50c.; Marseilles, 10f. 50c. For all other towns in the United Kingdom, except London, 1f. 25c. is added.

THE SPANISH IN MOROCCO.—It is announced that the Spanish Government intends to extend the limits of the city of Ceuta, and to people the territory acquired as far as the Bay of Benza, and will publish the conditions for its colonisation. The probable value of the oak-trees alone in the forests within those limits will amount, according to the estimate made by the civil engineers, to 14,000,000 reals.

THE COTTON QUESTION.

THE WEST INDIA INCUMBERED ESTATES.

THE revived cultivation of cotton in the West Indies—to which many persons are looking now in view of the probable deficiency of supply from America—will depend to a great extent on the clearance of estates from old incumbrances. Liabilities to consignees, to mortgagees, and to other creditors—schedules of debts with interest eating up the greater share of the rental, and leaving the nominal owner of wide land a very poor man, without capital to keep up any old industry or introduce any new branch of cultivation—all these characteristics of Irish land and Irish landlordism twelve or thirteen years ago are still to a great extent characteristic of estates in the West India Islands. The sharp and sure remedy of an Incumbered Estates Court, that has worked so well in Ireland, has been offered to the West Indies—not imposed on them as in the Irish case. The Act is permissive, and acquires force only when the local Legislature sanctions its introduction. As yet only three of the West India Islands—St. Vincent, Tobago, and the Virgin Islands—have availed themselves of the law—but the recent word gives some hope that the Legislature of Jamaica will pass the necessary enabling Act. The Act is exactly suited to its work: it affords a cheap and speedy decision of disputes, a ready sale, and, above all, a Parliamentary title. The Court sits in London, and some of the cases decided under it have been of considerable interest; the sale has followed decision with great promptitude, and in some cases the order for possession has left England by steamer on the very day of the sale.

It is very fortunate that we have now ready-made to our hand, this new machinery for setting free from the debris of old debts the lands England may require for cotton. The West Indies have one advantage over the other fields proposed for cotton supply: they are much nearer to England than India, the coast of Africa, or Australia, and the cotton grown can of course be sold at a much cheaper rate than, *ceteris paribus*, the same product from any other part of the world. At the Townhall, Manchester, a few months ago, Mr. Bazley said with truth, "We know well that the West India Islands could supply us with much more cotton than this country requires, or than the whole world requires;" yet at present out of the, in round numbers, one thousand million pounds of cotton imported into England in 1857, the West Indies supplied not a million and a half. The plant is indigenous to the islands; indeed, a most important variety of it (Sea Island cotton) has derived its origin and botanical name (*Gossypium Barbadosense*) from Barbadoes. In Jamaica, at the beginning of this century, the cultivation of cotton came next to that of sugar. The letter of a visitor to the island—an intending cultivator—adds some striking facts. The raw, wild cotton, growing still on the lands once under cotton, now neglected, is valued at 8d. per lb. at Manchester. "The total expense of cultivation for 100 acres at the maximum would be £1000, while the profit of the minimum rate per acre for yield, and at the value of 8d. per lb. as it is in its wild state, would be 100 per cent."

The absence of cultivation is partly attributed to want of capital and "disinclination to embark single-handed in any further enterprise." It is in this point of view that the Incumbered Estates Act will work well, clearing off proprietors without capital or enterprise, and superseding them by individual Englishmen or new companies.

As to the question of labour to cultivate the cotton, we hesitate to touch it, fearing that avalanche of correspondence and that uprising of controversy which the words "coolies" and "immigration" provoke. Whether, as Demerara reports, coolies can be imported at £10 a head, or whether they cost much more, we leave aside for the present; but if the present crisis in America creates a pressing necessity for cotton it also suggests a source of labour supply. A writer in the *Times* suggests the 90,000 freed slaves of Maryland and Virginia; but there are all over the Slave States probably about 300,000 free negroes, and, in face of renewed penal Acts, an immigration northwards has already commenced.—*Globe*.

INDIA AND NATAL.

There is at present somewhat too strong a disposition to look to India for our supply of cotton. That which she has hitherto sent to us has not been of the best quality; but this defect may perhaps be remedied by more careful cultivation, and, so far as quantity is concerned, it seems difficult to assign a limit to her productive power. In 1858 she sent us 1,185,023 cwt., worth £2,970,518; yet it would appear that an enormous extent of territory is absolutely desert from mere want of tillage. In Bengal we are assured that 30,000,000 acres are lying waste, though the proportion of cultivated land is there greater than in any other part of India. Of the condition of the other Presidencies we may form a rough idea from the fact that in South Arcot, in Madras, 54 per cent of irrigated, 77 per cent of dry, and 74 per cent of garden land, amounting in all to 1,220,082 acres, are waste, and that in the Talooks of Ralworee, in Bombay, out of 122,000 acres of arable land, 70,000 had been suffered to fall out of cultivation in 1846. Of course it is not to be assumed that all the soil thus left unproductive is capable of growing cotton; but such statistics give us at least an opportunity of forming an approximate idea of what may yet be done in India by a judicious application of energy and money—and not a very vast amount of the latter, seeing that the native labourers are content with wages of about twopence a day. But why not at the same time develop the resources of Natal? Mr. M'Leod tells us that the yield of one acre, having 6000 plants on it, was equal to one pound and a quarter of cleaned cotton per plant, which, at 6d. per pound, gave a return of £187 10s. per acre; and that, as there are, at the lowest computation, 640,000 acres of coast land which will produce cotton of this quality, we might have a supply of 4,800,000,000 lb.—more than four times the entire quantity imported from all quarters in 1858—from this colony alone.—*Star*.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual general meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, held on the 21st ult., Edmund Potter, Esq., in the chair, it was unanimously resolved:—

That this annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce desires to impress upon the new board of directors the importance of giving special attention during the coming year to the financial and commercial affairs of India, and suggests the desirability of conferring with other chambers of commerce and parties interested in the trade, with a view to united action.

Accordingly a special meeting was held on Thursday. At the time we go to press we have received no report of the proceedings.

A MONUMENT TO DUNDONALD.—The *Athenaeum* announces the formation of such a committee as has rarely been formed in England for the purpose of raising a Dundonald Statue Fund. Lord Brougham is the chairman of this committee; and in the list, though it is only just begun, are already the names of the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Bedford, the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Wellington; the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Forth, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Marquis of Headfort; the Earl of Shrewsbury, Scarborough, Eroll, Harrington, Hardwicke, Fortescue, Fife, Durham, and Bective; Lord Raynham, Beauchamp, John Manners, Ebrington, Paget, Saltoun, Napier, Brougham, and Belhaven; Sir John Pakington, T. Milner Gibson, and C. Tennyson D'Eyncourt; Vice-Chancellor Stuart; Admirals Sir Augustus W. Cliford, Sir Thomas Cochrane, Sir G. F. Seymour, Sir F. W. Austen, Sir Houston Stewart, and Robert Gordon; the Mayors of Liverpool, Manchester, and Salford; together with a long list of intellectual, official, and commercial notabilities.

THE LATE DISTRESS IN THE CITY.—The Lord Mayor stated yesterday week at the Mansion House that, the frost having now completely passed away, he did not think it necessary any longer to keep up the organisation for the relief of distress that he had lately established. "During the last three weeks we have relieved very nearly 3000 people, all of whose cases have undergone careful inquiry. Every application made here for assistance has received attention. In no case has money been given without careful examination into the attendant circumstances."

Literature.

The Two Cosmos. A Tale of Fifty Years Ago. 2 vols. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.

When we say that the first chapter of "The Two Cosmos" should more correctly be the last it will naturally be understood that anything approaching dramatic sequence is not to be expected. It is difficult to say if this be the result of want of skill on the part of the writer. He is skilful enough in other respects. The probability is that it arises from a nervous anxiety to be original—a wise literary ambition, but not to be purchased at the sacrifice of dramatic art. The propriety of feloniously appropriating the property of Peter, in order to discharge the just claims of Paul, has long been questioned. If the writer had only consented to be just a trifle commonplace the journey through his book might have more easily been made, and ourselves spared the pains of those dreadful jolts and jerks familiar to travellers by the Eastern Counties Railway and the readers of spasmodic writers.

In welcoming a new (evidently) writer it is pleasant to say at once that there is almost an end to objection. In a strangely introduced conversation on the literature of fiction the author sensibly shows what should be sought and what avoided in novels; and it is but fair to say that, in the book before us, he has not often lost sight of his critical opinions. For instance, he is scornful on the "dramatic qualities," "as if life were a tale, that accommodated itself to a set of laws made by men of a peculiar way of thinking;" and there is no question that he has broken those laws to an extent that might draw Schlegel from his grave, were it possible for his ghost to subscribe to *Mind's* library. Again, he thinks that novels may be interesting without hero or heroism, or harrowing incidents; and, though he favours us with one or two romantic passages and a suicide, the events are, generally, simple enough (although the excitement induced is very great); and as for things heroic, there are none to be found in either of the *Cosmos*. The writer also thinks that the personages of the story should be made to be thought real beings; and, accordingly, he insists on his book being a piece of domestic history of the early part of the century, and never loses an opportunity of inserting a flash of local colouring—of persons, places, dates, or allusions—which does leave an impression of something like reality. However much these precepts may be agreed or disagreed with, it is impossible not to agree with the assertion that the dialogues in books should be as much lifelike as possible. In "The Two Cosmos," accordingly, we usually find the language of men and women "much as they might have been supposed to speak," as Byron says. No speeches three pages long and without a full stop, as we actually encountered in a titled lady's work not long since, but short, readable sentences, which elucidate the plot and generally assist in illustrating character. For once Nature will know herself. In almost all fiction the mirror held up to her induces nothing but a hideous or ludicrous distortion.

The story of "The Two Cosmos" would be difficult to describe in a few lines, but it may be lightly glanced at. Cosmo Dinwiddie, about whose birth a mystery has always hung, is suddenly enabled to prove his legitimacy, and accordingly ousts his aunt from a goodly property. In addition, he is thereby enabled to marry a young lady upon whom his now beggared cousin Cosmo Manderson had set his young affections. As these two gentlemen here part, and do not meet again until the end of the book, it may be guessed that the pursuance of the two fortunes involves a constant breaking off of a chain of incidents and an amount of retrospection and explanation absolutely embarrassing even to novel-readers by profession. Dinwiddie, with an estate, goes into the army; Manderson, with a scrip and a staff, goes from Edinburgh to London. Now, it will be taken as a very ordinary freak of fortune that Manderson finds friends and prospers; whilst Dinwiddie makes enemies, is ruined, and dies a frenzied suicide in a debtors' gaol. The contrast of these two characters is admirable. Dinwiddie is a big, handsome fellow, who knows billiards to perfection, but is scarcely proficient in Latin and Greek. He is excellent in a fight, a strong and friendly man, and withal of an innocent and trusting character. His misfortunes and death are attributable to a belief in some old fortune-teller's nonsense which he superstitiously misinterprets. Manderson, on the other hand, is a smaller, weaker man—more blood than sinew—a philosopher whose philosophy deserts him cruelly at the mere prospect of being without an occasional dinner. Intensely Scotch, he can take advantage of the most trifling piece of good luck, work hard, save money, and—consequently upon some good services rendered—winds up by marrying the granddaughter of a lord, besides inheriting the estates of his unfortunate cousin Dinwiddie. The unfortunate career will be read with the greater interest. The writer certainly appears to know everything; but he is more at home, more happy, in his pictures of military life than of the unprofessional London life of the period. As a specimen of military life, as a good scene, and as a capital instance of the author's powers in dialogue, we subjoin a page which occurs when Dinwiddie is under a cloud and purposely insulted by his superior officer:—

"Will you pass these woodcocks here?" quizzed out Colonel Warner. "Shall I help you to some?" said Cosmo. "No," answered the Colonel. Cosmo did not stir a finger. "Waiter, put that dish of woodcocks here," said Colonel Warner, marking the part of the table with his hand. "Mr. Dinwiddie can help you without moving them, I dare say," said Captain Dodwell from the opposite side of the table. "Ay!" said the Colonel. "Mr. Dinwiddie will help you, sir,"—Dinwiddie, continued the Captain, "have the goodness to cut up one of those birds, Colonel Warner will take some." Colonel Warner was silent as the waiter held a plate over Cosmo's shoulder for a portion, when it was duly helped he presented it to Colonel Warner. "What is this?" said he. "Woodcock, sir," was the answer. "Take it away." "I understood you to ask for woodcock," said Captain Dodwell, observing Cosmo's struggle to remain silent. "Never mind, bring it to me, John." "I asked the woodcocks to be put here," said Colonel Warner. "John," immediately ordered Captain Dodwell, "put the dish of woodcocks before Colonel Warner; take care you do not move them off the bread." The order being carefully complied with, Colonel Warner took up on a fork the finest-looking of the birds, smelt it, and, appearing satisfied of its proper odour, proceeded with some care to cut off its head at a particular joint of the neck. He then asked the servant if he had any wax candles, the table being lighted by Argand lamps; upon being answered in the negative, he immediately called aloud to the head of the room to Colonel Wilton, who was engaged in conversation—"Colonel Wilton, can I have a lighted wax candle?" "Certainly," was the reply; "do you want it just now?" "Ay?" "Do you wish it just now?" "Yes." "A wax candle for Colonel Warner, immediately, Hopkins," turning to the man behind him. After some delay, a long wax candle in a beautifully-styled and embossed candlestick was set before Colonel Warner, who now stuck the prongs of his fork into the bill of the woodcock, and, placing the candle between him and Dinwiddie, deliberately held the head over the flame for the purpose of roasting the brains.

But the writer is equally amusing at legal matters. Scotch law appears to be, even beyond every other country's law, exactly the reverse of an exact science. It is more like a clever playing upon human nature, save that it is even more difficult to understand. Those who groan at the unintelligibility of our Westminster decrees may satisfy themselves with a glance at Edinburgh perspicuity fifty years ago:—

"MANDERSON against PHIN and OTHERS.

Act. Cathcart.
Att. Corbet.

"The Lord Ordinary having heard parties' procs *etia voce* in his own presence, finds the libel relevant to infer death-bed, and *quoad hoc* repels the defences; but in respect the defenders plead kirk and mercate, allows a proof; grants diligence against havers as officers, and appoints parties to third-second and box for the third sedurant day, with certification, and decrees."

The story of "The Two Cosmos" is worked out with so great a variety of incidents and characters impossible to describe that it is safe to say the reader will understand it to be no common book without farther proof. It will be found interesting for its plot, whilst the reader will read slowly for the sake of its varied humour

and occasional quaintness of thought and style. Trifling blemishes shall not be mentioned; they are the carelessnesses of an accomplished gentleman and scholar, who appears to have seen much of the world of fifty years ago, and who, happily, has the faculty of sketching it with vigour and fidelity for the "latest seed of time."

Personal Narrative of Two Years' Imprisonment in Burmah. By HENRY GONGER. Murray.

It is an unexplained and somewhat puzzling circumstance, though there may certainly have been good reasons for it, that this narrative was not published sooner after the events referred to in it (comprised as these chiefly were in the years 1825-8, before the first Burmese War), in which case the work must have commanded no small share of attention, on personal and political grounds, which could not now be held with the same effect. At the present day the story furnishes a painful parallel to the sufferings lately undergone by the British captives in China, or, rather, suggests the further inflictions to which the survivors might have been exposed if they had been less promptly rescued. As a record of personal suffering and barbarous oppression the work will retain a strong though harrowing interest. The author's recital exhibits somewhat less detail than is generally allowed in cases of this kind by modern usage; chiefly, perhaps, because he was forced to destroy his journals and other papers, to avoid giving fresh offence to the Burmese rulers. His disclosures, moreover, are reserved and decorous, but the tale seems to gain in breadth and seriousness from the characteristics, as also from the unaffected intermixture of religious reflections and acknowledgments of providential deliverances. There is nothing very deep or acute in these reflections; they even bear, in some passages, the impress of a very ordinary intellect, but they may, for this reason, in a tale of cruel misery, engage our sympathies the more powerfully.

Mr. Gonger left Calcutta for the Burmese empire in March, 1822, having found a change of air necessary for his health, but desiring to relieve the tedium of his expatriation by a mixture of commercial speculation. He was well received in the Court at Amrapoorah, and disposed of his stock and consignments at immense profits. He was chiefly incommoded in this position, first, through the insecurity inspired by the pranks of despotism, to which he saw other people becoming victims, and next by the impediments presented to his carrying coin, bullion, timber, and other commodities out of the country, which, owing to some peculiar customs, did not promise to be a convenient residence for his lifetime. He managed, however, through the system of bribery that prevailed around him, to overcome the difficulty of removing his acquired wealth. He returned to British India, and, after a short absence, paid a second visit to the Burmese Monarch, whom he now found at Ava. He was again well received till the outbreak of hostility between the Burmese and English; but from that time found himself exposed to many persecutions, though the King, at first, was personally very civil to him. He was fearful of giving offence by attempting to escape, and was at last charged with being a spy, subjected to an imperfect trial, and confined in a private prison, his feet being placed in the stocks, though from this last infliction his keepers, as far as they could manage it with secrecy, were bribed to relieve him by treats of beer and spirits. A further infraction of discipline led to his being worse treated, and he was thrown half-naked into the "Letmayoon" or "hand-spare-not" dungeon, where he soon found himself joined by all the English and American residents he had known, about five or six in number. In a horribly filthy and crowded room the captives were capriciously tormented with additional fetters, stocks that could be lifted in the air, and other appliances, as their gaolers wished to extort money from them, or whenever the superior authorities were more than usually irritated at tidings of the victories of the British forces. Now and then they were placed in more airy quarters, or even in private cells; but Mr. Gonger when nearly sinking under disease was once carried back to the inner prison, merely that his gaoler might escape the risk of having to pay for a mat to bury him. They lived in perpetual fear of death, and were frequent witnesses of atrocious tortures and executions. No food was allowed them, except from their own resources and from the alms of the people. Mr. Gonger, however, was faithfully supplied by his domestics, and, even after his household furniture and the last remains of his property had been confiscated, a Mussulman attendant of his took to baking, and generously provided his master with biscuits, both for his own use and to barter for trifling indulgences with his keepers. He saw some native criminals expire by pure starvation. One striking episode in the lot of the British captives followed from the elevation to power of Pacahm, a special hater of the nation, who had them removed to a country town which was his own birthplace, to be sacrificed there with more formality. He then sent down a lion, to whose jaws they were apparently destined; but Pacahm, having changed his mind, and devised another execution for them, the lion was allowed to starve in his cage, the prisoners being for some nights kept awake by his gradually enfeebled roarings. Pacahm next seems to have designed to bury them alive; but he himself lost meantime the favour of the King, and was dismissed from office. Meantime the British troops pressed nearer to Ava, and Mr. Gonger, and Dr. Judson, an American missionary, were employed as interpreters for the negotiation of a treaty, and ultimately liberated. Mr. Gonger complains of having had no indemnity for his losses, and claims to have saved the English Government no less a sum than £70,000 by detecting an ambiguity in the terms offered to the Burmese, in which the *acca* rupee might have been confounded with the *Madras* one. The last pages of the book are occupied with the effects of the treaty of peace (especially in reference to our abandoned allies of Veng), and are enlivened by some miscellaneous anecdotes and sketches. On the effects of his captivity Mr. Gonger says:—

There can be no doubt, from the observation of my friends, though I was not aware of it myself, that my mind for a time was much weakened and impaired by long inactivity and anxiety. It manifested itself to them by frequent returns of what is called *absence of mind*; often unheeding the remarks made to me, and omitting to reply to questions as though they were unheard, or, if answered, it was often incoherently, also by a look of vacuity and a habit of inertness and listlessness. Another year of the same sort of imprisonment would most likely have brought on a state of settled and irrecoverable melancholy, from which I was liberated just in time to save me. As it was, it was merely temporary. Mixing once more with my fellow-creatures rapidly restored me; and what contributed much to do so was the calm serenity of the river voyage and the cheering company I had the good fortune of enjoying.

The Coal-fields of Great Britain: their History, Structure, and Duration. With Notices of the Coal-fields of other Parts of the World. By EDWARD HULL, B.A., of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, &c. With Illustrations. Stanford.

What shall we do when our coal-fields are exhausted? What will the world at large do when all the coal-fields are exhausted? What should we have done if the use of coal had never been found out? These questions, which came home to some of us in the late severe frost, are not quite idle. That life and comfort were possible when coal was not in use we know; but, under the actual conditions of modern "civilised" existence, comfort without coal is, just now, out of the question. "Can't get leaves! why don't they eat buns?" "Can't get coal! why don't they burn wood?" But the wood is harder to come at than the coal; though one certainly wondered during the recent severe weather to how many poor people it occurred that odd sticks and logs, and branches of trees would burn. As to the future, there is no reason why it should not be as fortunate as the past. The human race, taking it as a body, is a Miserable, and always relies, with a trust that is not disappointed,

on something turning up. Something will turn up. New means of propulsion will be found out which will save the consumption of coal for railway purposes; new means of lighting which will save the consumption of coal for the production of gas; and new means of producing warmth for ordinary purposes, to which we shall at last accommodate ourselves. Nor is it inconceivable (far from it) that means may be discovered of modifying climatorial influences. But what changes all this, or part of it, will imply in the poetry of the future! And what a necessity for commentaries on the poets of to-day for readers of a thousand years hence!

The volume before us seems heavy reading at the first glance, but it is not so when fairly read. Mr. Hull quotes an allusion to coal in Theophrastus, about 238 years before Christ. Axes or picks of the pre-historic times in this island have been found in coal-beds. In Lancashire, in a coal seam on the banks of the River Douglas, old excavations have been found of a very curious character, and been attributed by some to the Danes, and by others to the Romans. In the neighbourhood of Manchester, "amongst other Roman remains turned up about a century ago, cinders and scorie were discovered in several places, as well as the actual refuse of some considerable coal-fire." In "Domesday Book" no allusion is made to coal. In the Boldon Book, containing the census of portions of the northern counties, and published in the reign of Henry II., we find at least two references to coal in connection with Smith's work; and even at that early period there are suggestions that the profession of coal-mining ran in families, as it does at the present day. In 1259 Henry III. gave a charter to Newcastle to dig coal—this being the first public or governmental allusion to the article. At first there was a great outcry against its use, on the ground that the smoke poisoned the air, and in 1306 Parliament petitioned Edward I. upon the subject, and a proclamation was issued forbidding its use. The proclamation, however, went for little, and during the fourteenth century collieries were opened in various parts of Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland. The present total produce of all the coal-fields of the world is 96,737,517 tons a year; out of which Great Britain and Ireland contribute 65,887,000 tons. The general conclusions of Mr. Hull are these:—That deposits of coal exist in different parts of this island, at all depths, down to 10,000 feet, or thereabout; that mining may be carried on to a depth of 4000 feet but that lower down the temperature will be a barrier, as it will probably be as high as 120 deg. Fahrenheit; that, however, this temperature may, perhaps, be reduced by ventilation so as to permit mining operations during the winter months of the year; that for mines deeper than 2000 or 2500 feet there should be underground stages, with separate machinery, to lessen risk of accident, and facilitate going down; and, on the whole, that, taking the above 4000 feet as the limit of depth, there is still coal enough in England and Wales to furnish sixty millions of tons a year for a thousand years to come.

Mr. Hull now and then says funny things. For example, "It is significant that the largest ship and the longest bridge the world has ever seen should have been completed in the same year, while it was not the will of Providence that their projectors should themselves witness their completion." Significant of what, we ask? "We may safely aver," continues Mr. Hull, "that, but for the invention of the steam-engine and the produce of our coal-fields, these great works would never have been projected." And we may safely aver that if Mr. Hull confines himself to statements of this kind he will escape controversy. Nor are we inclined to dispute with him that "the first evidence (p. 2) of a decreasing supply of coal will be a general rise in the price."

It is comforting to reflect that our children and grandchildren are not likely to suffer for want of fuel. Some people may be able to get up anxieties for the third generation, but that is too much for us; the line must be drawn somewhere, or we shall be hanging ourselves in despair at the idea that some day or other the globe will not be big enough to hold all the people that will be born. This must occur some day, if things go on; and our first resource will be to colonise the moon. But—to follow on the track of Mr. Hull—we may safely aver that ground-rents will rise before people fight for standing-room on peaks of Himmalech.

MR. ROEBUCK'S MISSION TO VIENNA.—It is not yet known whether the Austrian Government will accept the offer made by Messrs. Roebuck and Lever, as the representatives of an English company, to supply ten steamers armed with rifled guns; but certain it is that Captain Wiswak, and one of the secretaries of the Archduke Ferdinand Max, went to England a few weeks ago in order to make inquiries respecting the company and the vessels.—*Letter from Vienna.*

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RAILWAY COMPANIES.—The Botley Farmers' Club, one of our most active local agricultural societies, resolved at their meeting last week that, "on account of the monopoly they enjoy, and the large quantity of land they have secured and destroyed, the directors of the London and South-Western and other railways are under a moral obligation to render every possible assistance towards the improvement of the land in the neighbourhood of their lines, by transporting, at the lowest remunerating rate, chalk and other minerals needed by the soil, and laying down, or assisting others to lay down, the necessary alltings for the purpose in situations the most convenient to the owners and occupiers of the land." The immediate occasion of this decision was the refusal by the South-Western Railway Company to undertake the delivery of 20,000 tons of chalk at a point upon their line to which no engineering objections existed, and at "any fair rate" of payment for the carriage of the same.

THE FRENCH ARMY QUITTING PEKIN.

THE treaty of peace which has enabled the allies to retire from Peking having been duly signed, it only remains to hope that it may not share the fate which seems to have attended most other Chinese treaties: a consideration very little less serious even though Prince Kung, the brother of the Emperor himself, was appointed to affix his signature to the document, and to conclude the negotiation with the victorious barbarians.

The whole ceremony between the French Ambassador, Baron Gros, and the Prince occupied only a short time, although it was sufficiently impressive. The General, accompanied by his Staff and a detachment from the various regiments, formed the French escort, while Prince Kung was attended by a number of mandarins of various grades, from those wearing the superlative rose-coral to the lower grades who could boast only of those made of gilded copper.

The ceremony was conducted in the Palace of Ceremony, which had but a dreary and shatlered aspect since the appearance of the "barbarian" within the walls of the Imperial city. Here some fifteen mandarins of the coral button, with a similar number of those bearing that ornament of blue, of white crystal, and other materials, took up their stations round the Prince and the great dignitaries. The civilities between the Prince and Baron Gros were sufficiently distant and constrained; but, the ceremony of signing once concluded, the Baron, as in duty bound, accepted a cup of tea and drank it off, while the Prince only waited till the cup touched the lips of his guest and immediately drained his own allowance of the same beverage—a ceremony, it appears, of extraordinary importance in Chinese politeness. The Ambassador then presented the Prince with some photographs of the Emperor and Empress of the French, and the affair soon afterwards terminated.

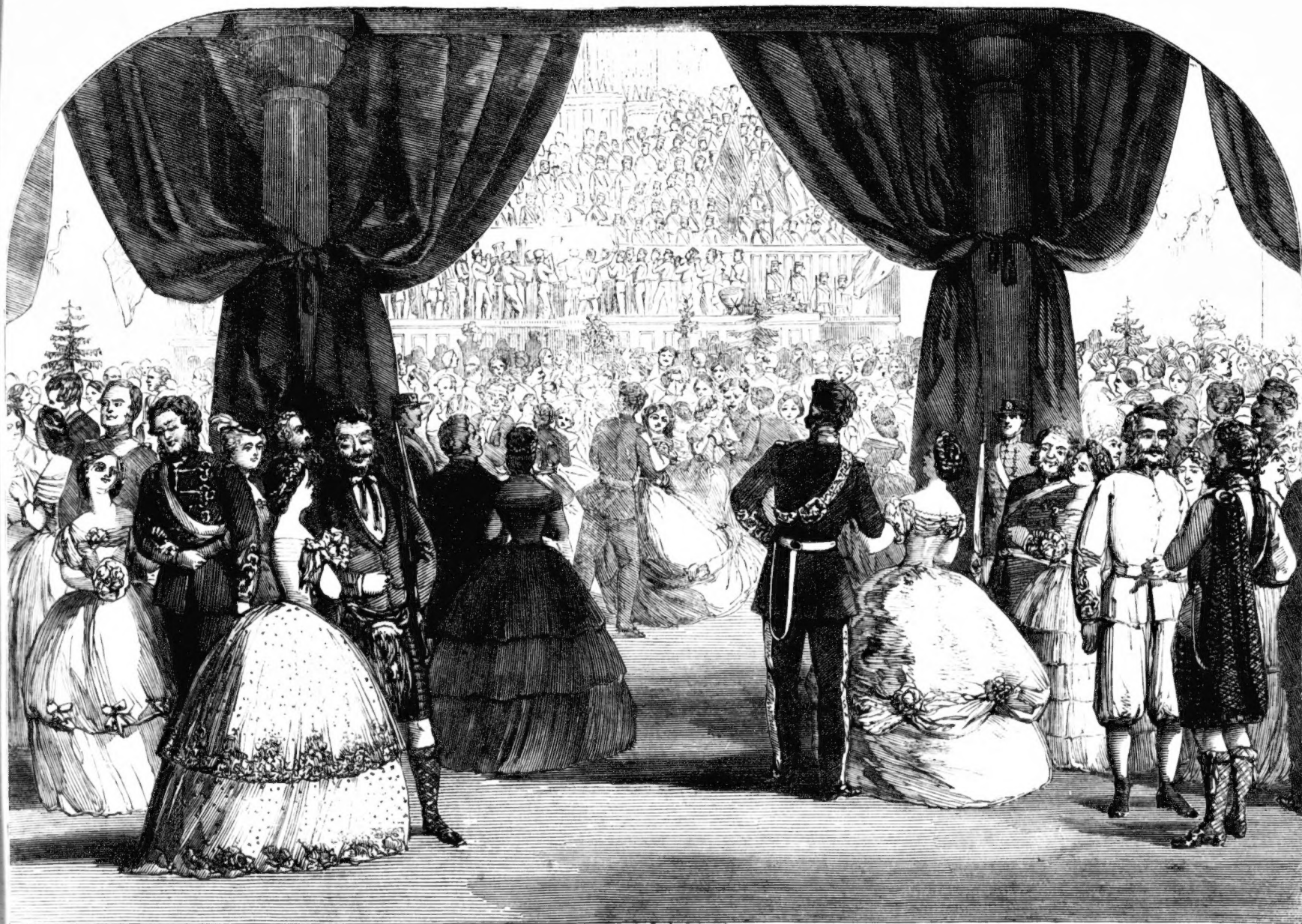
The appearance of the Prince is scarcely Chinese. Although he is evidently addicted both to the sensual mode of life and to the indulgence in opium which enfeeble most of the Chinese nobles, he possesses considerable finesse, and has the indications of firmness of purpose.

After the treaty was concluded, quantities of fine fruits and other delicacies were sent to Baron Gros and General Montauban—such quantities, indeed, that these marks of polite attention continued to arrive during several days.

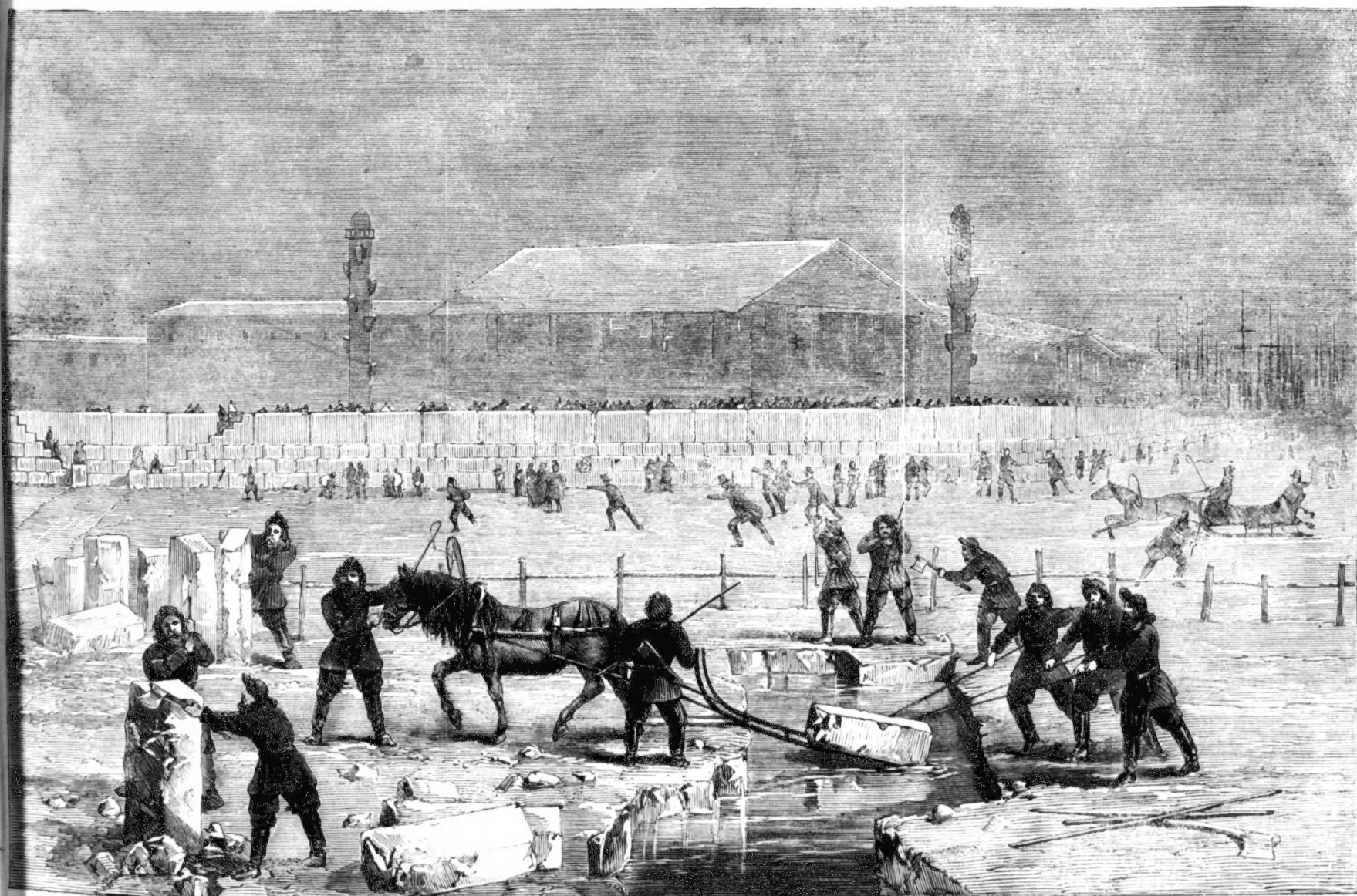
The French troops, however, soon quitted the wonderful city, and were ordered to Shanghai, there to wait for commands either to re-enter France or to join their comrades at the various depôts.



THE FRENCH ARMY ON THEIR MARCH FROM PEKIN.



SCOTTISH VOLUNTEER BALL AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, EDINBURGH.



ICE-HARVEST ON THE NEVA.

ST. PETER'S PARK.—The *Roman Journal* of the 20th ult. says:—"The product of the collection of Peter's Pence, amounting on Monday to 2,300,000 crowns, continues to pour in at Rome in aid of the pontifical treasury, and to console the soul of the Holy Father by the evidence it gives of the intense zeal of his children and their love for the cause of truth and justice. France, Spain, Belgium, Germany, the British Isles, and other States of Europe vie with each other in giving proof of their devotion to the Holy See." "I regret to inform you," says a correspondent of the *Times*, "that Pius IX. is not at all well pleased with the conduct of the English Catholics. They do not open their purses as they ought to do. Cardinal Manning reports that they show reluctance to hand over their cash to the support and increase of the Papal Army."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THERE is war in the Church of England which will lead to results. There have always been controversies in the Church, ever since it was established; but for the most part the quarrels have been about insignificant matters, and often about mere words. In the sixteenth century there was a disastrous quarrel between the Lutherans and the semi-Arians. The orthodox inscribed upon their banner the Greek word "Homoeousion"; their opponents adopted the word "Homoiousion" for theirs. There is only the difference of a letter, but this was deemed sufficient to distinguish the subtle physical distinction between the creeds of the opposing sects. And it was sufficient; for if the difference between the two words is nothing, so was the distinction between the creeds. And for the most part this controversy was very much like other theological controversies which have agitated the Church. Generally, they have been about subtleties which none but metaphysicians could appreciate. The controversy, however, which has now broken out in the English Church is not of this character. It is upon no trifling subject. In short, it is upon the infallibility of the Bible—the very foundation upon which the whole superstructure of orthodoxy is built. In almost all the controversies of past times this question was taken as settled: all parties appealed to the Bible; but now the infallibility of this is impugned. The sinners in the case are seven in number: the Church of England, and the book in which they have assembled these heretical views is entitled "Essays and Reviews," and was published by John William Parker, about a year and a half or two years ago. Their names are the Rev. Frederick Temple, D.D., Master of Rugby School; Rowland Williams, D.D., Vice-Principal and Professor of Hebrew, St. David's College, Lampeter; Baden Powell, M.A., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford (since deceased); Henry Bristow Wilson, B.D., Vicar of Great Haughton, Huntingdonshire; C. W. Goodwin, M.A.; Mark Pattison, B.D.; and Benjamin Jowett, Regius Professor of Greek, Oxford. It would be out of place here to criticise this book; but I may be allowed to say this much about it. The writers do not openly attack the infallibility of the Scriptures as the sceptics and Deists of a former age did, nor do they speak of the Bible with irreverence. On the contrary, they treat the subject with great solemnity; and there is a seriousness and reverence of tone which we often look for in vain in many orthodox works; but still there cannot be a doubt that the tendency of the book is such as I have described. At first the work did not make much noise in the world; for months after it was published one scarcely heard of it; but now it is talked of everywhere. The orthodox party is thoroughly alarmed and roused, and we may expect to see the whole Church soon wrapped in a fierce flame of controversy. Public meetings of the clergy have been summoned to denounce it. Already the convocation of the orthodox has memorialised the Archbishop of Canterbury about it. The *Quarterly Review* has fiercely attacked it. Dr. Millar, at Exeter Hall, stigmatised it as a mixture of Scepticism, Atheism, Deism, and Pantheism (which, by-the-by, seeing that Deism is the acknowledgment of one God, Atheism is the utter denial of a God, and Pantheism is the worship of everything as a God, is rather a curious mixture); and everywhere the orthodox hosts are gathering for battle. Meanwhile, it has become painfully clear that these heresies are not without followers; for, whilst there is this stir against the book and its authors, and one Bishop has positively refused to license or ordain students from St. David's College, the Fellows of Lincoln (Oxford) have had the audacity to choose Mark Pattison, one of the essayists, as Rector of their college. Of course, every one knows that this is not a new question—not entirely new even in the Church of England; for, not to mention such arch heretics as Froude and Francis William Newman, who both succeeded, who does not remember the fierceness with which Dr. Hampden was assailed for suspected heresy on this question when he was appointed Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford in 1817—and the constant attacks to which Mr. Maurice, suspected of at least too much latitude on this point, has been subjected?—whilst amongst the English Dissenters it is well known that the heresy has long been thought to prevail. But it is quite new in its present place. Never before was this heresy so openly avowed, and by such distinguished men. In Germany numbers of eminent divines and preachers have sanctioned it. Indeed, the controversy has there in a great measure burnt itself out. But it is something both new and strange to see scepticism in high, if not the highest, places in the English Church. I make no apology for introducing this subject to the notice of your readers, for it is the topic of general talk, and is of the highest importance. We may expect to hear it noticed in Parliament. Lord Shaftesbury will probably bring it forward by way of question to my Lord of Canterbury or the Bishop of Oxford. In the Commons I think it will hardly be mentioned, for there we have no recognised representative of the Established Church. Nevertheless, perhaps Mr. Arthur Kinnaird may venture to put a question to Lord Palmerston; but he will get no satisfactory answer in that quarter, we may be sure, for the noble Lord does not often meddle with these vexed questions. Indeed, he does not understand them, I fancy. When he answered for the marvellous conception of the Ramsey babies," which, according to Mr. Drummond, he did, and when he told the Scotch divines that it would be better to clean their drains than to fast and pray, I am persuaded it was rather ignorance than intention that led him to pronounce such heresy.

The second of the address is to be Mr. Charles Paget, the member for Nottingham, and a manufacturer there. Mr. Paget is a landed proprietor as well as manufacturer, and has served as High Sheriff for the county. How he will comport himself in seconding the address I have no means of knowing, for I never heard him speak; indeed, I do not remember that I ever saw him upon his legs in the House. Making a speech, however, on moving or seconding the address cannot be a very difficult business. Copies both of the Royal speech and the address will, of course, be handed over to Mr. Paget in due time to enable him to prepare himself for his work. In these he will find all the topics on which he will have to comment; and it will be strange indeed if with such helps he cannot make, or get made for him, a respectable speech of half an hour's length, commit it to memory, and fire it off with due propriety of manner. Mr. Paget first came into Parliament in 1836, when the Whigs transmutated Mr. Strutt, the old member for Nottingham, into Lord Belper.

Next month there is to be a grand dinner at which Lord Palmerston will preside, and afterwards present to his faithful dogman, Sir William Hayter, a magnificent piece of silver plate. This is a gift to Sir William from the Liberal party. Now we can understand why Lord Palmerston should present Sir William with a gift for a more faithful dogman than Sir William no chief ever had; but why the Liberal party should subscribe is not so obvious, except to the initiated. The duty of the whip of the House of Commons is, as all know, to get and keep the members of the House together when a division is toward. It is understood that there are three sorts of arguments by which this is achieved:—1st. There is the direct argument of the whip. This is applied more especially to Government officials—"the niggers," as Lord P. calls them. How may the niggers go home?" his Lordship used often to ask. Government officials, from the highest to the lowest, is expected to saunter like a hound down to the House at the sound of the crack of the whip. Then there is the argument of moral suasion. This is used to the independent or semi-independent members, and requires notions and delicate handling; and then, lastly, there is the argument: what shall I call it? there is no short name for it; but it is used to all those who have accepted, or hope to receive for themselves, friends, or constituents, some little piece of patronage at the hands of the Government. This is a very effective argument, most effective lash in the whip, it said, though it has been somewhat impaired by competitive examinations, and all that. Now, I do imagine that the members who have subscribed to this testi-

monial have been principally found amongst the first and last classes. "The niggers" would, of course, feel obliged to subscribe, and the third class, of course, would be glad to testify their gratitude for favours received. The testimonial is very large and handsome. It stands 3 feet 6 inches high, it weighs 1100 ounces. In the centre there is a pillar, on the top of which is perched Britannia and the British Lion. The British Lion has had to do duty in strange places in his time. In the New-road he may be seen couchant on a pedestal opposite the door of a quack doctor. He was placed there by subscription from a number of those to whom the doctor's compound of aloes and gamboge had been administered with effect; and now he is made to mount guard in honour of a retired whip of the House of Commons. What next will the brute (as Hume used profanely to term him) be called upon to do?

A paragraph in the *Art-Journal*, which has since been copied into several journals, explains the late Count D'Orsay's success in the arts by the simple explanation that he engaged certain artists to produce under his name the works by which he obtained his supposititious reputation. In point of fact, the matter has long been no secret. None but those egregiously ignorant of the labour necessary to excellence in any one branch of art could ever have supposed D'Orsay to have produced the works issued under his name in the various departments of painting, portraiture, and sculpture, human and equestrian. The *Art-Journal* does not give the names of the artists actually employed. We give two of them, and assure our readers that we have seen these gentlemen actually at work in the Count's studio. The painter was a Mr. Mackie; the modeller of the exquisite equestrian statues of Napoleon, Wellington, and the Marquis of Anglesey was Mr. T. H. Nicholson, who has since acquired celebrity as a draughtsman on wood, and who has frequently embellished our pages with his dashing sketches of feats and incidents of horsemanship. The Count's busts were reduced to shape and form by the most eminent sculptor then and now practising in that branch of art, whose name we only hesitate to publish lest its disclosure might give offence. D'Orsay's well-known sketch of Turner displays the unmistakable touch of a famous ether of our day. The lithographed collection of profile heads was the Count's alone, except here and there, where aid has been called in to assist in the drawing of a figure more than ordinarily developed.

The annual exhibition of the Photographic Society is now open. Year by year the photographers are growing, as a race, sadder and wiser men; year by year the Photographic Exhibition is improving and deteriorating—it is improving in all points of mechanical perfection, sensitiveness of chemicals, sharpness of focus, and delicacy of tone; it is deteriorating in the equally-important qualities of invention, suggestiveness, and variety. Some brilliant exceptions there are to the race—rash neophytes, who will attempt new combinations of lights, or grouping, or accessories, the inevitable result of which is that half the picture is out of focus, and no one will look at it but some pitying friend, who shakes his head over it, and says, "Ah! I told you it would fail; this will teach you not to try what has been proved to lie beyond the limits of the art;" as if any art were limited, least of all one yet in its infancy, as photography undoubtedly is.

But the chief cause of deterioration lies in the rapid diminution of the class of things which are pronounced to be "suitable to photography." At present this class may be said to consist of still-life (which, being photographically interpreted, means dead game and ornamental vases), single portraits, groups of three, sculpture, exteriors of buildings, hill country, and microscopic objects. All other created things belong to the "unsuitable" class, though the following are occasionally attempted by some aspirants, who are regarded by the more experienced with a mixed feeling of pity and contempt:—Live animals, groups, interiors, combinations of background with foreground figures, flat country, and waterfalls.

There is so much sameness, both of merit and demerit, in the exhibition that it would be invidious to select examples of either. The portraits by Mr. Macandrew, Mr. C. Wright, Messrs. Maul and Polyblank, Mr. H. Watkins, and the London Stereoscopic Company (especially the *cartes de visite* frame of the latter) are exceedingly good; and the miniatures of Messrs. Lock and Whitfield are exquisite. So are the figure groups of Mr. H. Hering, who seems to excel in his delineation of child-life. In Mr. R. Fenton's "Furness Abbey" a very happy effect has been obtained by the lights on the ground in the interior, making the building stand out in much bolder relief than shadow would have given.

Messrs. Dunn, Mudd, B. Jones, Gordon, Bedford, and Fry have been most successful in their landscapes and architectural bits. "A Holiday in the Wood," by Mr. H. P. Robinson, deserves notice as one of those patchwork pictures which are strongly censured by some as the ruin of all real art. It is, indeed, painfully artificial; the great difficulty being to fill in the gaps where the various fragments join so as to avoid the effect of one photograph having been cut out and pasted on to another. I prefer, however, to notice only the artistic power shown in the grouping; this no picture can dispense with, while the imperfections here are merely such as require improvements in materials and mechanism to overcome.

Messrs. Cundall and Downes' rendering of Mr. Hicks' picture, "The Post Office," exhibited last year at the Academy, is an excellent reproduction of oil-painting, showing at the same time the "unsuitability" of several of the colours employed. If any painter would condescend to use only such colours as photograph well, finishing as carefully and well as if it were in proper colours, he would produce an extraordinary picture, no doubt, but one which could be multiplied for the benefit of the million with a beauty and lifelikeness which no engraving could pretend to.

In "Studies," by W. Peters, No. 1 should, of course, have been labelled "Poisoned!" and No. 2 "Tired of Life." In No. 1 the lady on the right is saying with a melancholy satisfaction, "Yes! there is a white precipitate (she has been trying some chemical test on the tea); we are poisoned beyond a doubt." The lady on the left, though pointedly appealed to, can make no reply; she is fast subsiding into stupor; whilst the gentleman behind, with an indignation excusable under the circumstances, strikes the table as he adds, "But we will not die unavenged; I have yet an hour or two to live, and I'll write to the Times!" The conversation passing in No. 2 is not perhaps quite so obvious; the youth in the window is remarking, "To return to what I said at first, Have we, or have we not, anything worth living for? I say No." And his elder brother replies, "As I haven't understood a word you have said, you'll excuse my committing myself."

It may not be amiss to conclude with a few remarks on the faults most commonly committed in photography, and the probable means of avoiding them. The point of view is almost the only thing now left to the artist, and in landscapes it is almost as difficult to find a bad one as in portraits and groups to find a good one. All then, that the artist can do to improve the landscape is to put in a foreground figure, and this is generally a man sitting on a stile; this is not only objectionable on the ground of sameness, but also because experience convinces us that a stile is the least convenient seat usually to be found in a country scene. In portraits there seems to be only one attitude admissible for a gentleman: you must dangle your right hand over one knee, and have your left elbow on a small round table—so small that one can imagine no other purpose which such a table could serve. If not seated, you must rest your right hand on the chair-back, while the left arm, weakened by a long course of rest on small tables, is supported by putting the thumb into the pocket. One haunting feature in pictures has hitherto been spared to photographs—I mean the eternal scroll which the M.P. is condemned to hold. However, in No. 275 we see fatal proof that the golden age of the art is over—the scroll is henceforth inevitable. If I may venture on giving a few hints on this point I would say, leave the grouping as much as possible to nature; repeat the same picture again and again, if necessary, till a happy expression has been

caught, and watch the sitters at times when they are not being photographed, and are thinking of other things; thus you will see what attitude suits each best. And, above all, try new and original effects; even if they fail, failures always teach something; and, in any case, the art will be better advanced thus than by endless repetitions of cathedral fronts, dead birds, and woody nooks.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE sight of a house crammed to the ceiling, and the roar of enthusiasm with which they were greeted, must have convinced Mr. and Mrs. Kean that they are not forgotten by the London public. "Hamlet" was the play selected, and never did these great artists play with greater spirit, earnestness, and energy. Criticism has been exhausted on them in this and, indeed, in all their Shakspearean characters; and it will suffice to say that their performance on Monday night at DRY LANE showed that the art of great tragic acting is not yet lost to the British stage.

At the OLYMPIC Mr. Addison, as the hero of a little piece called "Old Trusty"—a grumbling, senile, affectionate, obstinate old family servant—plays with an artistic excellence that was hardly surpassed by Mr. Farren in his best days.

Every one with a keen appreciation of the ridiculous should go to see the Paynes in the COVENT GARDEN pantomime. The members of this family are unapproachable as genuine humorous pantomimists. Mr. F. Payne's dance in imitation of a wooden toy-figure is a marvel of skill, neatness, and appreciation of the ludicrous.

Mr. Fechter is rehearsing Don Cesar de Bazan at the Princess'

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

A CIRCULAR has been addressed to Lord's Lieutenant of counties by the Secretary at War. He says:—

I have the honour to receive from your Excellency, in the period when the number of volunteers to arm the volunteers is rapidly increasing, the request that the Government should be enabled to supply the arms required to provide their own rifles, under the same conditions as those of the Government; and that a certain number of arms should be supplied to them by the Government; and afterwards the arms were supplied for all the volunteers.

Thus two systems of arming volunteer corps came into operation, and recent inspections have shown that not infrequently two descriptions of rifles are in use in the same corps, some the property of the Government, and some of the volunteers themselves, who have provided them at their own expense.

As it is desirable that the supply of rifles should for the future be made from one source only, and that those corps which have purchased their own arms should be relieved as far as possible from the expense which they have incurred in this respect, beyond those now thrown upon the more recently formed corps, her Majesty's Government are prepared to purchase all such rifles as are now the property of corps or individual volunteers, at the price paid for arms of similar pattern (£24. 6s.) under the Government contracts, as noted in the margin; and, in cases where volunteers object to part with their own rifles upon these terms, it is to be understood that Government arms will be issued for their use in the corps.

I have, therefore, to request that you will make known this decision to the various rifle volunteer corps in the county under your charge, and will cause a return to be made to me of the number and description of arms, not the property of the Government, which are now in use by them.

The volunteers will be allowed the continued use of the arms thus purchased, on the conditions in force with respect to the arms issued by the Government, except in cases where there are two descriptions of arms in one corps, and where it may be necessary, for the sake of uniformity, to issue the Enfield rifle to all the volunteers.

For the future, however, all rifle volunteer corps will be required to use the arms issued to them by the Government, and no new corps will be sanctioned in which it is intended that the members should be armed in any other manner.

I have also to impress upon you the importance of maintaining the regulation which requires that all the rifles should be invariably deposited in the armouries of the corps. I am aware, however, that certain corps would be subjected to much inconvenience were a rigid adherence to the regulations enforced in these cases, and I shall be prepared, therefore, upon receiving a recommendation from you to that effect, to sanction a relaxation of this regulation in the case of such rural or scattered corps as you may consider should be allowed to remain in the houses, and to be retained at the houses, of the members of the corps, provided always that every rifle is subject to the inspection of the officers commanding companies once a week, and of the Assistant Adjutant-General once a month, and that the arms are not loaned to the field officers commanding companies, or to the officers of the corps, on the understanding that, in all instances where the arms are neglected, the privilege shall be withdrawn.

I am also disposed to extend this privilege to such members of corps existing in cities and large towns as may, from residing at a distance from their headquarters, be unable conveniently to deposit their rifles daily in their armoury. In such cases written permissions may be given, at the discretion of the commanding officer, to individual members, but the privilege is to be judiciously exercised, and strictly under the provisions already prescribed for rural corps; and the commanding officer will be required to cause the number of members to whom he has granted permission to retain their arms to be inserted in the periodical return furnished by the Adjutant-General.

Earl De Grey and Ripon has intimated to commanders of volunteer corps that, with a view of providing as much as possible a knowledge of the rifle among all classes of volunteers, he will be prepared, after the 1st of April, 1861, to sanction the gratuitous issue of rifle ammunition to volunteer corps. His Lordship does not intend that this grant should be in addition to the quantity already allowed to be purchased by corps, but that the difference between the proportion issued gratis and the quantity which has hitherto been allowed to rifle corps may be continued to be issued to them at cost price.

THE SWORD OF LA TOUR D'Auvergne.—The sword of La Tour d'Auvergne, the celebrated French general, having been presented to Garibaldi by its possessor, the latter received the following letter of thanks:—"I have received the sword of La Tour d'Auvergne, that sword which the Consuls of the Republic decreed to the bravest man of the French army—to the brave man of an army that trampled under its gigantic steps and buried in the dust the thrones and tyrants of Europe. This honour surpasses all that the aspirations of a military man, of any man, can dream. I accept it, not only with all the gratitude I am capable of feeling, but in addition as a sign of the sympathy of humanitarian France for oppressed nationalities. The initiative of the great reforms that are to consecrate the fraternity of peoples pertains still to France."

THE DEFENDERS OF MALTA.—The canal for unloading the Quarantine with the Grand Harbour of Malta is now again being agitated: it is to be built from the Ploia, and to cross the St. Giuseppe outside the Porte des Bombes, and will join the Grand Harbour near the slaughter-house, Colonel Luff, R.E., is reported to have made a very elaborate plan, different from any preceding one; showing that it will add very considerably to the strength of Malta, so much so that it will be impossible to take it by storm. There are so to three masked Martello towers, the guns from which will completely sweep the coast, and the three bridges connecting the two sides. The expense is now the subject of consideration.

SAN ACCIDENT ON BOARD THE NILE.—A few days back, owing to the river having fouled the chain-cable of H.M.S. Nile, the eight men who were at the captain were ordered to "walk back." To do this properly every man should resist to the extent of his ability. No doubt on board the Nile some held on too loosely, and the remainder did not possess sufficient strength to resist the reverse movement, in which they were not aided by poles. When once the captain obtained the mastery, its retrogression became irresistible; some brave fellows exerted themselves in vain, and possibly suffered the more for their strenuous efforts to do their duty. Two of the bars, in flying out, were knocked to pieces; many men were injured, two died immediately, and two others were not expected to recover.

THE MARRIAGE LAWS.—A case bearing on the vexed question whether marriage with a deceased wife's sister is or is not a lawful marriage was decided on the 1st of January by the Court of Session in Scotland. The case, in giving judgment in the case of *Penton v. Livingstone* (which before the House of Lords), unanimously decided that, by the law of Scotland, marriage with a deceased wife's sister is civilly null. The case in question relates to the succession to the Bellinzie estate, in Linlithgowshire, belonging to the late Admiral Sir Thomas Livingstone, who died in 1833. There were two claimants—Mrs. Penton, sister of the deceased, and whose title to succeed the Judges have sustained; and Alexander Livingstone, defender, son of Thurlstan Livingstone (who died in 1833), and, after his wife's death, married her sister, and had this son by her.

THE VILLAGE BRIDGE.

Who does not remember the Village Bridge, and keep it amongst all the brighter and gentler associations of his life? What water is to landscape that is the village bridge to the village itself. A thousand soft recollections of the times when we have stood on that humble structure, and, in commune with Nature and our own hearts, felt all the pure influence of the simple faith and undaunted hope of boyhood, revive within us as we look over into the stream and watch the fish darting hither and thither amongst the long, cool grass at the water's edge.

Rare "half-pounders" have we taken home in that old rush-basket after a summer day's fishing down below the mill, on whose floury (not flowery) steps we have dined off thick bread and butter, accompanied in later times by a stone bottle full of that delicious sparkling ale for which our village inn has always been so famous. Let us speak low, as other thoughts occur to us; in such a tone as we were used to talk when we met *her* at the old trysting-place (what other than the rustic bridge?), and everything seemed softened with the hallowed light of our own love, as the hushed trees only whispered faintly in the evening breeze, and the stream lay, like rippling silver, under the soft moonlight. Ah! that village bridge is a lasting record of the history of love and joy and suffering all unwritten, but, whether in the obscure village or the striving noisy city, the true life of every one of us, which will survive alike the cold sneers of cynicism or the false rules which are supposed to regulate the manners of "society."

It is to the artist, the true exponent of Nature, who can translate to us her happiest moods and most impressive suggestions, that we must look when we no longer live amongst these early scenes. Skilled in that universal language which genius can interpret, the painter may, by his own appreciation of the mysterious affinity between man and his dwelling place, at once achieve a triumph in art, and bless the world by adding to its treasures that which will appeal at once to the hearts of hundreds of men and women who look upon it with variable but deep emotion.

PRIMITIVE METHOD OF LIGHTING STILL IN USE IN THE FENS OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE.

In these days of gas and dazzling electric and other new methods of illumination it is difficult to imagine in what way our ancestors managed with the lights in use in former times. There were then blazing beacons and bright wood fires on the hearthstones; there were also torches of pine and other materials, but candlelight was of an inferior description. The necessity in the Anglo-Saxon and mediæval time of horn lanterns to protect the candlelights from the currents of air which visited the imperfectly-built houses added to the dimness.

In the days of the Roman occupation of England oil-lamps were in use, as is shown by the remains of this date which have from time to time been discovered. We do not, however, remember noticing any mention of oil-lamps amongst the fittings of the Anglo-Saxon dwellings. It is said that Alfred the Great employed candles in a lantern for measuring time; and it is reported that the ancient lantern preserved at Oxford is the identical article.

Lamps in the Scripture days were fed with oil of olives, and were kept burning all night. In Exodus xxiv. 14 mention is made of "The candlesticks also for light, and his furniture and his lamps,



PRIMITIVE CANDLE AND CANDLESTICK STILL IN USE IN THE LINCOLNSHIRE FENS.

with the oil for the light." In the same book, xxxvi. 17-21, "The candlestick for the temple, of pure gold, of beaten-work, with shaft, branch, bowls, and flowers," is described; it had six branches going out—three out of each of the sides. There were three bowls, made after the fashion of almonds; in one branch a knob and a flower, and the same on the other branch; and in the candlestick were four bowls, made like almond-knobs and flowers. Seven lamps were also made, the snuffers and snuff-dishes of pure gold. The work of the Tabernacle being finished, the candlestick, "even with the lamps, was set in its place." In the 50th chapter the lamps are ordered to be lighted.

Flambeaux were also used in the East in those days for giving light and for other purposes. These were of two kinds—the one being composed of pieces of old linen twisted freely together and dipped in

oil or bitumen, which were sometimes entirely consumed by the flames. This description of torches seems to be referred to in Judges xv. 4:—"And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned tail to tail, and put a fire-brand in the midst between two tails." Those animals were then let loose, and set fire to the standing corn of the Philistines, the vineyards, and the olives. The other flambeaux were small bars of iron and brass inserted into a stick, to which pieces of linen dipped in oil were fastened. The use of lamps is frequently referred to in both the Old and the New Testaments. In many country places in England small lamps supplied with common oil or goose grease are still in use; and the Engraving shows a very primitive kind of candle which, even at the present day, is in use in the cottages in marshy districts. The wick is formed of the rushes gathered in the neighbouring bogs, and, when dry, dipped two or three times into hot tallow, and then laid away for use. The candlestick consists of a rough stick set upright in a circular stand. Horizontally is a twig forked at one end for the purpose of holding the candle. It might be worth while for the ingenious contributors to *Notes and Queries* to inquire if this homely invention may have given origin to the word "candlestick."

FLAXMAN HALL.

The Engraving on the following page represents the octagonal hall of University College, Gower-street, which is covered by three pretentious, but not very elegant, domes, which may be seen as a conspicuous feature in the view of London which you get from Hampstead-hill and other elevations near London. On the death of Flaxman, the sculptor, the works in his studio became the property of his executrix, sister-in-law, and adopted daughter, Miss Newman, who, being desirous of making these valuable relics available for the public presented them to University College. The council accepted the gift in the spirit in which it was offered, raised a special subscription to pay the expense of cleaning and fixing, and ultimately placed them in the octagonal hall, and on the staircase and landings adjacent. The relics of the great artist consist of casts in plaster from the original models in clay designed by him. They are in number one hundred and forty, and consist of groups of figures and statues, and alti and bassi relievi. Here they are safe, are appropriate ornaments to the building, and always open to public inspection at reasonable hours.

Flaxman, if not the greatest, always ranked certainly amongst the foremost of modern sculptors; but, in simple truth, sculpture is at the present time, and has been for many years, the deadest of the fine arts. Painting has taken a grand start, thanks to the Pre-Raphaelites and Ruskins, who, with all their faults, which our critics have not failed to notice and exaggerate, have certainly revived a spirit of life and poetry in painting, and done much towards delivering it from the bondage of a conventionalism which was fast throttling it to death. But sculpture shows no symptoms of this renovated life, and it is still a wearisome task to walk through a sculpture gallery. As to our public statues, of those which adorn (?) our squares and thoroughfares, the less that is said the better. Not one statue that has been erected in the metropolis during the last fifty years is worth a glance. Indeed, if all our street statues, with one or two exceptions, were to be broken up and used to mend the roads, or, in the case of the metal ones, turned into culinary utensils, every one would feel that the material had been turned to a more useful purpose, and no man's taste could be possibly offended. Some of the statues lately



THE VILLAGE BRIDGE.—(FROM A PICTURE BY T. CRESWICK, R.A.)

erected are little short of hideous; that of Sir Robert Peel at the top of Cheapside, and that of Sir Charles Napier in Trafalgar-square, for instance. It is surely impossible to conceive anything more utterly devoid of grace and dignity than the statues of these eminent men; whilst poor Dr. Jenner makes us shiver as we pass him, sitting there without his hat through all the cold, misty, muggy weather. He is only paralleled by Charles James Fox in Bloomsbury-square, who the last time we saw him had a peaked cap of snow on his head and a huge icicle hanging to his chin.

Flaxman was born at York, on the 6th of July, 1755. His father was a moulder of plaster figures, and, six months after the birth of his son John, the future sculptor, removed to London, and opened a shop in New-street, Covent-garden, and afterwards in the Strand, for the sale of his wares. From childhood Flaxman showed a tendency to art which, being stimulated by the circumstances in which he was placed, impelled him ultimately to adopt it as a profession. And there can be no question that he was a man of considerable genius. But he fell upon evil times for art—times when artists were fond of attempting the impossible of embodying abstract

qualities in human forms, and crowding their pictures and groups of sculpture with allegorical representations of Faith, Hope, Charity, Patience, Fortitude, &c., &c.—a mistake far from being corrected whilst we write, as any one may see who will take the trouble to recur to the models for a monument to the Duke of Wellington which were lately exhibited in Westminster Hall. Apropos of this subject, we some time ago went into a village church where there is a representation, large as life, of a dying man comforted and cheered by Faith or Hope—we forget which, but that is of no consequence—at his head, and Religion at his feet. "Who are these ladies?" said we to the sextoness. "Oh," she replied in a reverential whisper, "they are the squire's two wives, come back to the earth to cheer him in his dying hour." A laughable interpretation this, no doubt, but suggestive of a very useful lesson to artists, nevertheless. But, though Flaxman belonged to the false school which so long tyrannised over painting, and still dominates over the sister art of sculpture, it is evident that he had a touch of Nature in him which makes the world akin; and when he indulged the feeling, and when he took Nature as his model, his works were always beautiful.

There are, as we have said, one hundred and forty one subjects in this collection. To go over all these is impossible. We will direct attention to some of the principal. The "great work" of the collection is the group in the centre of the hall. It is entitled "The Archangel Michael overcoming Satan;" and, as far as manipulation goes, is no doubt an extraordinary production; but it may be classed among the attempts at the impossible. The subject is taken from the Book of the Revelations, chap. xii., where we are told that "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;" and then, at the end of the verse, "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." The figure of Michael stands aloft trampling the Devil under his feet, and with his spear urging him downwards into the abyss. This group is eleven feet in height. It was executed in marble for the late Earl of Egremont, and removed to Petworth after the artist's decease. It is, we are told, exquisitely done. But who does not see that a subject like this must ever defy the highest reach of the sculptor's art? The pen may perhaps be able to give us a glimpse at that fearful scene, but all attempts to do



FLAXMAN HALL, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

so with brush or chisel must be failures. "The Flight of Satan from Paradise" is an alto relievo, four feet seven inches by two feet ten, and is of the same class. The subject is taken from Milton's "Paradise Lost."—

"Satan, I know thy strength, and thou know'st mine,
Neither our own, but given; what folly, then,
To boast what arms can do! Sure thine no more
Than Heaven permits, nor mine though double I now
To trample thee as mire. For proof look up,
And read thy lot in yon celestial sign,
Where thou art weighed, and shown how light, how weak,
If thou resist." The fiend looked up, and knew
His mounted scale aloft. No more; but fled
Murmuring, and with him fled the shades of night.

"We once bought at a late clergyman's sale a copy of Milton's "Paradise Lost," in which we found this remark—"An extraordinary book, in which the author makes spirits fight with the weapons of men." This criticism was, no doubt, a just one. Milton clearly attempted the impossible, and was driven to the solecism mentioned by the worthy clergyman; and, notwithstanding the halo of grandeur which his genius has thrown over these scenes, this solecism must always be apparent. But how much more obvious must it necessarily

be when the painter or the sculptor, especially the latter, attempts to represent these wars between spiritual beings on canvas or in stone? As a fight between a man and hideous dragons the work is a very remarkable one; but as a description of what it purports to be it is a failure.

"Hercules and Hebe," on the stair landing, six feet eight inches high, is an example of the classical. In the pontificate of Julius II. a torso was discovered, and seems to have thrown all the cognoscenti who have seen it into raptures, although there it is nothing more than part of the body and the thighs. By the inscription on the pedestal it is known to be the work of Apollonius of Athens; but what statue it is really a part of cannot be precisely determined. However, amongst other conjectures, one is that it is a bust of a Hercules which formed part of a group of Hercules and Hebe. And, acting upon this hint, Flaxman took a cast of the torso, and completed the group from his imagination. And here it is. He was urged to execute the group in marble; but, not feeling satisfied with it, he refused.

"Collins the Poet," in relief, circular in shape, and two feet six inches in diameter—the model of the monument to Collins in Chichester Cathedral—belongs to a different class, and is quite within

the range of sculpture. It is illustrative of the story told by Dr. Johnson. A gentleman seeing the poet reading a book on one of his travelling excursions took it out of his hands, anxious to learn what companion a man of letters had chosen, and found it to be a New Testament. "I have but one book," says Collins, "but that is the best." Here we have a touch of nature. This little incident, beautifully rendered by the sculptor, affects us more than all the Jupiters and Herculeses and allegorical figures that ever were sculptured, however beautifully the chiselling may have been done.

And there are many more of the same sort of subject here. For example:—"Instruction of the Heathen," "Sisters in Affliction," "Brother and Sister in Grief," "Christ Blessing the Children," "Maternal Instruction," and many others which we cannot enumerate; most of them beautifully conceived and admirably rendered. On the whole, this collection is well worth a visit, and an hour spent in examining the Flaxman Gallery will be well repaid. People of the cognoscenti class will no doubt find much to excite their admiration in the more ambitious subjects; but, as for us, we turned away to the simple groups of modern life, where we found our own feelings represented.

PRINCE GALITZIN'S RUSSIAN CONCERT.

On Wednesday evening, at St. James's Hall, Prince George Galitzin gave a very remarkable and interesting concert of Russian music, which was well attended, and in all respects successful. The programme was made up entirely of national Russian music and music by Russian composers, with the exception of the first piece, which was Beethoven's overture in C major. In an annotated programme, which contains a number of interesting details respecting the pieces performed, Prince Galitzin informs us that this overture was dedicated by Beethoven to Prince Nicolas Galitzin, his father, and was performed for the first time at St. Petersburg from the score which Beethoven presented to him in 1826. Every one who is acquainted with the particulars of Beethoven's life is aware that he also wrote three of his latest quartets for Prince Nicolas Galitzin; indeed, the misstatements on the subject by the notorious Schindler (who according to Heine had the words "Ami de Beethoven" inscribed in his visiting-cards) are still fresh in the recollection of musical readers in all parts of Europe.

The second piece in the programme was a chorus of a simple, highly devotional character. Lamakin, who is Chaplain to Count Sheremetieff (one of the richest proprietors in Russia), and professor of singing at the Imperial Chapel in St. Petersburg, is ranked next to Bortniansky as a composer of church music, yet, strangely enough, even in Russia it is only with difficulty that one of his manuscripts can be obtained. The reason of this, as given by Prince Galitzin, is very simple and very shameful:—

In Russia a severe censorship exists for the ordinary productions of the press, but there is a censorship for church music which cannot be passed. Every person who wishes to print a new piece of sacred music, or to have it sung, let it be in his own parish church, or even in his own private chapel, must first of all submit it to the so-called Committee of Censorship. I say so-called, because this committee in fact does not exist, the members and president being represented by one single person: the ex-colonel of Gendarmes, Lvoff, at present director of the Imperial Choir. Now, Mr. Lvoff is himself a very fertile producer of sacred compositions, and, fearing, with much reason, that he might meet with dangerous rivals, he succeeded in obtaining from his Majesty Nicholas I. the monopoly of church music in Russia; in consequence of which all our parishes are inundated annually with the works of Mr. Lvoff, of which he makes a forced sale, and at very high prices. With Mr. Lvoff then, composer, and at the same time censor and printer, things go on easily enough; while persons capable of composing sacred music find it impossible to get their works printed or sung, inasmuch as the Committee of Censorship (that is to say, Mr. Lvoff) gives its sanction to no compositions except those of Mr. Lvoff.

No. 3 was Glinka's celebrated "Kamarinskaia," which is not only highly esteemed by the best musical judges, but has been fortunate enough to obtain the approbation of "G.H.M.," the great Russian dinner-eater (vide his recent letter in the *Times* on food, music, and society in Moscow). The "Scherzo Kamarinskaia" is an admirable piece of instrumentation founded on two popular Russian melodies. It was fully appreciated on Wednesday evening, and was so much applauded that, in compliance with the general wish, the Prince (who, of course, conducted) caused it to be repeated.

No. 4 was an "Adornamus" by Bortniansky; No. 5 an air from Glinka's "Life for the Czar;" No. 6, a capital specimen of the songs of the Moscow gipsies, and sung by Miss Lascelles, who, by the way, was not so much supported as interfered with by the oboe-playing of M. Lavigne in his solo obligato. No. 7 was Prince Galitzin's "Russian Quadrille," in which upwards of a dozen national melodies are introduced, and which, on this occasion (as previously at the Floral Hall), was immensely applauded, the last figure being encored.

The second part of the concert commenced with a selection (for the orchestra) from Glinka's "Life for the Czar," which Prince Galitzin classifies with the works of the first dramatic composers. "It would be useless," he remarks, "to treat this question in detail, inasmuch as Glinka's opera has not yet been represented in England. However, when a work contains from thirty to forty melodies, now soothing, now exciting, original in form, and harmonised with rare intelligence; with recitatives cantabile in quite a new style throughout the work; when the orchestration is masterly, and the music, as a whole, is so dramatic that it becomes almost comprehensible without the aid of words; then one may in conscience rank such a production with those of the great masters." The plot of Glinka's principal opera, which turns upon the devotion of a peasant named Ivan Soussanin who sacrificed his life to the safety of the Czar Michael (the first of the Romanoffs), has now been told more than once to English readers: for instance, in a recent number of the *Musical World*, in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* (a propos of the intended production of this work at one of our London opera-houses), and in a book just published under the title of "The Russians at Home," from which we are glad to see that the Prince has quoted several times in his programme. It is difficult, however (as the concert-giver himself observes), to form a just idea of the first act of this opera from an instrumental selection, and on Wednesday evening the public was invited to regard "this orchestral fantasia simply as a sort of sketch."

After the operatic selection came a "Persian Chorus," from Glinka's second opera, "Ruslan and Ljudmila." The melody of this chorus, which Glinka repeats five times, changing the instrumentation with each couplet, is said to be of Persian origin. Knowing nothing whatever of Eastern music, we will not hazard an opinion as to whether the melody possesses any decided Oriental character, but we can testify that it is simple, beautiful, and impressive, and must express our admiration of the rich and varied harmonies given it by the Russian composer, and of the fancy he has shown throughout in the instrumentation of his Persian tune. The hero of the opera appears to have fallen amongst fair women, and the Persian chorus contains a pressing invitation from these ladies to pursue no longer some dangerous journey which he has undertaken, but to remain among them until the darkness of the night, the storminess of the weather, &c., shall have passed away.

The rest of the concert consisted of an effective arrangement for three voices, with orchestral and choral accompaniments, of a very beautiful and strikingly original melody by Glinka, and "The Very Bad Waltz" (of course an excellent one), "The Surprise Polka," and "The Chinese Galop"—three effective pieces of dance music by Prince Galitzin.

THE "INFIDEL" ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.—A large meeting of "the benefited clergy of the city and archdeaconry of London," "alarmed at the public profession of infidel doctrines by ministers of the Church of England," was held a few days since. At this meeting—"The Rev. Dr. McCaul, Prebendary of St. Paul's and Rector of Magnus-the-Martyr, London-bridge, after pointing out the dangerous tendency of the essays and reviews, of which certain clergymen of Oxford are the principal authors, moved an address to the Bishop of London, calling his Lordship's attention to the subject, and to the necessity of some steps being adopted by the rulers of the Church of England to stem the tide of infidelity setting in, and which was all the more dangerous as not proceeding from open enemies, but from gentlemen holding high spiritual and educational offices in connection with the Established Church of the country." The Rev. Edward Auriol, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, Rector of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, having seconded the motion, the Rev. William Scott, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, Vicar of St. Olave's, moved an amendment which differed only in unimportant matters from the original resolution. It was carried, the result being an address to the Bishop of London unanimously condemning the essays and reviews. This unanimity in the ultimate conclusions of the meeting was effected by the voluntary withdrawal of several clergymen, who protested against the word "infidel" being applied to a body of ministers of the Church of England.

CAYLENS IS WORKHOUSE.—In the Court of Queen's Bench on Monday a rule nisi was applied for *ex parte* the Rev. Mr. Bagshaw, Roman Catholic clergyman, directed to the guardians of St. Luke's, Chelsea, the rev. applicants desiring to have access to the workhouse without the usual authorisation of an order from the master. It seems that there are from thirty to forty paupers of the Romish communion in the workhouse, and, finding it impossible to deal with such a large number individually, permission was sought to have them collected in the hall at stated times for the purpose of importing religious instruction. A rule was granted, but not on the point of the guardians setting aside a room specially.

ROYAL MISALLIANCES.

THE BONAPARTE CASE.

THE great case of Paterson v. Bonaparte was commenced on Friday before the First Chamber of the Civil Tribunal of the Seine. Berryer—the illustrious Berryer—who was called to the Bar just fifty years ago, spoke for four hours and a half without a moment's interruption. The Court did not rise for refreshment until he had done, at about half-past three o'clock. The *Express* report says:—

The question whether Jerome Bonaparte, when he married Miss Paterson, was nineteen or twenty-two, is admitted on both sides to be unimportant. It is clear that the new law of March, 1803, which altered the provisions of that of 1792, was known in the United States at the time of his marriage; that he was bound by the new law, and was even affected by express notice of it given him by M. Pichon, then the French Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, who did his utmost to prevent the marriage from taking place. It was equally clear that by this new law he was a minor so long as he was under the age of twenty-five, and that his marriage as a French subject could not regularly be solemnised without the consent of his surviving parent (Madame Letizia Bonaparte), which consent M. Berryer admits that there is no proof that he ever obtained. The new law also provided that a marriage of a French subject abroad should be preceded by the publication of bans in France; and that, it is admitted, was not done in the present case. The two great questions are—1st. Whether the marriage was void or only voidable; and, 2nd. Supposing it to be voidable only, whether the protest against the marriage which M. Letizia Bonaparte was made to sign by Napoleon I. was good in form, as being a reclamation in the sense of the code, and made in time, in accordance with the provision that it should be made "within twelve months" of the time when the parties whose consent was requisite for a regular marriage "had knowledge" of the fact of the marriage having taken place. It is presumed, from the tenor of the commencement of M. Allou's speech, that he himself will not, as a lawyer, lay any great stress upon the various shameful and self-contradictory devices which Napoleon I. resorted to in order to have the marriage annulled both civilly and religiously. The assumption in the defendant's written pleadings that the matter has been decided by "sovereign power" may be dismissed, as M. Berryer dismisses it, as "idle and delirious." The two questions are—1. Whether the marriage was void *ab initio*; and, 2. Whether, supposing it to be only voidable, it was avoided in legal form and proper time.

The court on Friday was as full as it could possibly hold. Some tickets for reserved places had been given by the President; but a considerable space was still left, when the doors were opened, for a rush by young barristers and the general public. There was no attempt to pack the audience, and many who had the patience to wait for two, or three hours at the door for admission met with the reward which they deserved. The proceedings were opened by M. Legrand, *avocat* for Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson, presenting the following conclusions:—

"That I may please the tribunal to declare the marriage contracted on Dec. 24, 1803, between the late Prince Jerome and Elizabeth Paterson valid."

"And also to take judicial cognizance (*donner acte*) that M. Bonaparte, while demanding that the marriage of Dec. 24, 1803, may be declared valid, has never had any intention to contest, and does not now contest, the civil and political effects of the union contracted in 1807 by his father with the Princess Catherine of Wurtemberg."

M. Berryer, in his exordium, said:—"The high authority of justice, whose majesty should everywhere and always be respected, is a guarantee that I will introduce no matter foreign to the cause. The crowded state of the court is to me a warning that, far from seeking to gratify vain curiosity, I must confine myself to the strict discussion of the legal question. I will abridge as far as possible the statements already before you in my written memorial—a memorial not published prematurely or containing statements which can possibly be contested. [This was in answer to a recent paragraph in the *Moniteur*.] My client, Madame Paterson, the divorced wife and now the widow of the late Prince Jerome Napoleon, has waited nearly sixty years for this day, and now, faithful to the conduct from which she has never swerved, she crosses the Atlantic at the age of seventy-five, and is here before you to ask the justice of a French Court. In recapitulating the facts of the case, as stated in the memorial, M. Berryer dwelt at great length upon the recognition of M. Bonaparte by all the Imperial family during a long series of years as their relation, arguing from this fact that notoriety in accordance with the register of his baptism was, in the terms of the code, indisputable evidence of his status as a legitimate child. He exposed the flagrant contradiction of the Imperial proceedings in pretending to judge by a "family council"—a special tribunal, which confessedly had no jurisdiction, (except over members of the Imperial family)—that M. Bonaparte was no member of it. He laboured at great length to show that the marriage in question, although objected to at the time by the French Chargé d'Affaires, was not "clandestine," or made "in fraud of the French law;" that it was only voidable for want of proper publications and the maternal consent that no legal step was ever taken to set the marriage aside, and that the first Napoleon's desperate attempts to treat the marriage as void—his repeated decrees, containing implied admissions that all his former acts against the marriage had been inefficacious—his correspondence with the Pope, who refused to annul the marriage—and his rejection of the legal opinion of the Arch-Chancellor Cambaceres, whose advice he asked, all showed the knowledge of Napoleon I. that nothing but a judicial decision—which it was now too late to ask for—could set the marriage aside. He concluded by expressing his belief that the judgment of the Court would confirm him in that respect for the Bench which he had cherished through a long life."

M. Allou—a fluent and very good speaker, and a first-rate advocate, although comparatively little known—opened the case for Prince Napoleon. He was bold enough to say that the eloquent advocate opposed to him had very little hope of winning his cause. The case was overlaid with romance, which, from the lapse of time, it was difficult to refute. While speaking most respectfully of Miss Paterson and her family, he could not help saying the facts of the case bore out the statement to be found in history, that she had said, "If I can be his wife but for an hour I will run the risk!" She knew of the legal objections to the marriage—the settlement provided for the ease of its being dissolved, and consequently she had not contracted it with "good faith" in the eye of the law.

The case has been adjourned.

With regard to what has taken place under the present reign, M. Allou stated some very curious circumstances. The decree of Napoleon III. calling M. Paterson's son by the name of Bonaparte, and restoring to him his nationality as a French subject, and also the nomination of his son as an officer in the French army, were acts accomplished behind the back of Prince Napoleon, and at which he was very much astonished. M. Allou himself was one day at the Ministry of State, and heard the plaintiff, M. Jerome Bonaparte announced as Prince Napoleon Bonaparte. This was no doubt, he said, a "footman's mistake," but the late Prince Jerome became very uneasy at the turn things were taking since the American Bonapartes had been admitted to the Imperial favour, and wrote the following very remarkable letter to his nephew:—

Sire,—A year has now elapsed since, as soon as I became acquainted with the decrees issued in favour of the son and grandson of Miss Paterson, I gave a note to your Majesty, representing the painful position in which these decrees had placed me.

In fact, they dispose of my name without my consent; they introduce into my family, without even my being consulted, persons that have never belonged to it. They render doubtful in the eyes of France the legitimacy of my children, and prepare for them a scandalous lawsuit for my succession. They constitute an attack against my honour, and that of the Emperor my brother, by annulling the solemn engagement entered into by us with the King of Wurtemberg and the Emperor of Russia, as a condition of my marriage with Princess Catherine.

Your Majesty appeared struck with the justice of my objections, and disposed to attend to them. You recommended me to wait. I conformed myself to your will; but time passes, the *statu quo* established for the benefit of M. Jerome Paterson and his son, a notoriety of *statu quo* which favours their pretensions, and even constitutes on my part a tacit acknowledgment. Moreover, I am drawing close to the end of my career, and I look upon it as a sacred duty to see that a question which compromises my dearest interests should be settled in my lifetime.

I therefore venture to solicit from your Majesty's sense of justice a final decision. If I were but a private individual I might have legal recourse against the decrees, and demand their repeal, for decrees are only valid in so far as they do not interfere with the rights of third parties.

Your Majesty will not refuse your old uncle that which cannot be denied to the least of your subjects. I supplicate you to summon a Council of State, over which you will preside, and before which I may be permitted to offer my own defence; and I am convinced that, acquainted with the facts, you will hasten to stifle a commencement of disunion introduced without any motive into the bosom of our family, and the results of which could not but be prejudicial.

THE DUC DE BERRI AND MISS BROWNE.

A very curious revelation was made by M. Allou in his speech in the Paterson-Bonaparte case. As a proof that such marriages could be annulled he instanced that of the Duc de Berri with a Miss

Browne. It appears that the Duc de Berri, on quitting the army de Condé at Coblenz, had hardly settled down in England, when he was smitten with the charms of a highly respectable girl, a Miss Browne, whom he proposed for and married according to the laws of England and also at the French Roman Catholic chapel in London (three years after the date of Jerome's marriage, at Baltimore, with Bessy Paterson), and during his whole residence in England (ten years) lived with this lady as his lawful wife to the knowledge of Louis Dixhuit and the whole family. His wife was not dead in 1816, though in that year the restored King of France caused him to commit bigamy and espouse the late Bomba's sister Caroline, the issue of which unlawful connection is the present "legitimate" pretender to the French throne. "When the Duc de Berri was stabbed at the Opera House here," says the Paris correspondent of the *Globe*, "I have a perfect recollection of two ladies being admitted to soothe his dying moments, and the talk at the time was all about the Duchess being so tolerant in the case, but it was his real wife and her daughter, it seems, whom he insisted on seeing before he died; they were amply provided for, and are possibly still living."

THE PRINCESS OLIVE.

We last week mentioned a like case, that of "*Ryves v. the Attorney-General*," then pending. The petitioner, Mrs. Lavinia Janetta Horton Ryves, who is sixty-four years of age, claims to be the legitimate granddaughter of his late Royal Highness Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III., and the object of her petition was to establish her legitimacy. The facts are briefly these:—Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, younger brother of George III., and one of the nine children of Frederick, Prince of Wales, is said to have married Olive, the daughter of a certain clergyman named Wilmot, in the year 1767. This Dr. Wilmot was himself an adventurer in marriage; and his wife, with whom he had contracted a private marriage, was a King's daughter, though a King of Poland. That there are unquestionably suspicious circumstances connected with Miss Wilmot's marriage is indisputable. The Duke and Olive Wilmot were, it is alleged, married by the bride's father, at the house of Lord Archer, in St. James's square, in the presence—of all the people in the world—of George III. himself, the great Lord Chatham, and Lords Warwick and Archer. It is quite true that the date of this marriage is 1767, and the Royal Marriage Act was not passed till 1772, and it is within belief that George III. might have objections to a clandestine union of his own children, while he had none to assist as paronym at his brother's private wedding. Of this marriage a daughter was the fruit—a lady, notorious some forty years ago as the Princess Olive of Cumberland by birth, and Mrs. Olive Serres by marriage. Four years afterwards the Royal Cumberland contracted a second marriage with the widow of Lord Carhampton, and became in the eyes of his brother a bigamist. This marriage did not please George III., as some people say, because his Majesty disliked the lady, or, as the Serres family say, because the King was privy to his brother's previous marriage. Hence it is said the Royal Marriage Act of 1772, which requires the King's assent to every marriage in the Royal family. The Princess Olive married a marine painter, named Serres, from whom, by the way, she was separated, and of this marriage one Lavinia Janetta Horton appears as the eldest survivor. This lady married a Mr. Ryves, from whom, however, she has been divorced; and it is a curious feature that all these marriages seem to have been particularly unhappy. Mrs. Ryves claimed that her mother's legitimacy should be established—in other words, she came into the Court of Probate and Divorce to procure a decree for the validity of the marriage between the Duke of Cumberland and Olive Wilmot. On Thursday the Rev. John Welch, Incumbent of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, produced the register of the church, a large volume, some of the entries in which, and amongst these that on which the petitioner relied, being much defaced by damp, and restored. The register contained the entry of the baptism of the petitioner as the child of John Thomas Serres and Olive, his wife. The witness deposed that the book had come into his possession about two years ago, when it was in the same state as at present. Their Lordships having inspected the entry most minutely, and Mr. Charles Goodwin, late private secretary to her Majesty Queen Adelaide, having been examined on behalf of the petitioner, the Judge Ordinary said:—

We think the petitioner has established that for which she contends. That John Thomas Serres and Olive Wilmot were lawfully married on the 1st of September, 1791, is sufficiently established, for we have the certificate of that marriage. It is also clear to us that the petitioner has proved the allegations—that she is the lawful daughter of that marriage, and that she is a subject of the Crown. We therefore affirm these three propositions. We make our decree that the petitioner's parents were lawfully married, that she is their lawful child, and a subject of this realm.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE curious Bonaparte legitimacy case has its parallel in a petition just adjudicated upon by the Court of Probate and Divorce at Westminster. The petitioner, a Mrs. Ryves, claimed to be legally established as the daughter of a Princess Olive, daughter of the Duke of Cumberland by a marriage contracted by his Royal Highness in 1767. According to the petitioner's case the marriage of the Duke to Miss Olive Wilmot was attested by George III. and the Earls of Chatham and Warwick. The birth of Princess Olive, issue of this marriage, was also authenticated by a certificate signed by the Earl of Chatham, and by a declaration subscribed by the King during the last century. His Royal Highness the Duke appears to have found it expedient to commit bigamy, and, in order to avoid exposure, to cause the first and, consequently, only legal marriage to be kept a family secret. After the death of the Duke in 1790, Princess Olive, his daughter, married a Mr. Serres, by whom she had issue the petitioner. The petitioner, then Miss Serres, married Mr. Ryves, and has for some years been contending against pecuniary difficulties and certain special adverse influences to establish her claims to the revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster and to several bequests from the Royal family of the estimated value in all of upwards of a million pounds. The Court decided that the petitioner had established her legitimacy as the daughter of Princess Olive and Mr. Serres; but this decision still leaves open the great question of the petitioner's rights as lineal legal descendant of the Duke of Cumberland, brother of George III.

A low sharper has been swindling several poor persons by representing himself as a solicitor, and obtaining from them small sums under the pretence of requiring the amount for stamps to enable them to claim property bequeathed to them by wills enrolled at Doctors' Commons. Last week he obtained in this way 7s. 8d. from a poor labouring man who, he stated, was entitled to £799 in the funds and 120 acres of land at Reading. At the Wills Office he contrived to escape from his "client," but left behind him, in his hurry, documents showing his transactions in this line to have been somewhat extensive. The dupe made the matter known to Mr. Norton at Lambeth, who expressed a hope that the press would put the public on their guard against the rogue's tricks. He pretended to be John Bartley, of 9, Friar-street, Reading, solicitor, but there is, of course, no evidence that he is, or is in any way, connected with such a person.

A question of considerable importance to persons sued for small debts was decided by the Court of Exchequer on Tuesday last. It has long been a not uncommon practice among attorneys accustomed to "sharp" practice to sue and recover judgment on debts under £20, and then forthwith to recommence proceedings on the amount, including costs, of such judgment; treating the sum first recovered as a single claim or judgment debt. By this device the debt was by one or more successive judgments increased to upwards of £20, the point from which the law gave power to arrest the debtor in execution. The Court was of opinion that there could not be a more direct

enactment than that which limited such arrest to cases in which the sum recovered by a judgment, exclusive of the costs of such judgment, shall not exceed £20. It is, therefore, now established that such factitious increase of a debt by costs of a former judgment is useless for the object sought to be effected.

A Mrs. Welsh went into a druggist's shop, and, seating herself on a chair provided for customers, commenced a long harangue of violent and unclean abuse against the astonished proprietor, who she declared had sent a charwoman to her house to rob her. The druggist (Mr. Baldock) assured her she was mistaken, and begged of her to leave the shop. Mrs. Welsh refused. Mr. Baldock did not attempt to turn her out; perhaps, in the first place, the visitor was of the gentler sex; and, secondly, that she appeared to weigh about seventeen stone. So Mr. Baldock went to the door to look for a policeman. Mrs. Welsh then rushed at him, tore his hair from his head by handfuls, administered pugilistic punishment to his visage, and finally rendered his countenance almost unrecognisable by his friends by clawing it down with her talons. This little operation completed, Mrs. Welsh acknowledged, in the most candid manner, that she had been mistaken in the person, and had "paid out the wrong party." Mr. Baldock, instead of prosecuting Mrs. Welsh, brought an action against her unfortunate husband. This action was tried on Monday before Mr. Baron Bramwell. Poor Mr. Welsh's counsel could only attempt to mitigate the damages by arguing that if injuries had been sustained from a savage dog the defendant would only have been liable had he known of its mischievous propensities, while in this case he would have to pay for wrongs beyond his own act or control. The Judge adopted, in the most ungallant manner, the comparison between Mrs. Welsh and the savage dog (which was, indeed, capable of excessively uncomplimentary application), saying that a man possessed of such an animal was better placed than the defendant, and suggested, as it was "not the present fashion for husbands to beat their wives" or to correct their wives (fancy a gentleman correcting a 17-stone female for violence!), that Mrs. Welsh should be "chained up" by her lord and master. His Lordship added that a savage woman was a very difficult creature to manage, as a man, although the stronger, was, from his natural repugnance to strike her, almost entirely at her mercy. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £100.

Here is an example of the preference displayed by our criminal laws to the protection of property over that of mere life and limb. Two swindlers of the lowest class, betting-men and skittle-sharpers, went into a public-house and asked for some beer, putting down half-a-sovereign. On receiving change one of them abstracted a shilling, by a clumsy and instantly-detected sleight of hand trick, and, passing it to the other, pretended to have received a shilling short. Both were apprehended, and, on conviction, received from the Recorder of London a sentence of nine months' imprisonment. On the same day, at the same Sessions, appeared a William Ewins, navigator, aged 21, charged with a felonious assault. William got drunk in a taproom, and made a disturbance. The police were called in, and William threw himself down and kicked at everybody within reach. He kicked John New, the complainant, so fiercely as to kick him on to a seat over which he fell, permanently injuring his spine. John New had entered the public-house a young fellow of twenty-five, hale and strong, like other police constables. He was lifted into the witness-box at the Central Criminal Court on Monday last, a miserable, helpless cripple, to prove the case against Ewins, who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. Just the same punishment, the reader may perceive as that of the two sporting gents who tried—only tried—to swindle a publican out of a shilling.

On Wednesday Mr. Sylvester, the Coroner who presided at the inquest on the body of the child murdered at Road, appeared by Sir Fitzroy Kelly to show cause against the rule for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which, as our readers may remember, was applied for last term. The affidavits went to the effect that the Coroner refrained from putting the members of Mr. Kent's family under examination on account of the strong prejudice and violent excitement manifested not only by the neighbours, but by the jury themselves. The Lord Chief Justice described the conduct of the Coroner to be this:—

The jury being more or less excited, the Coroner was apprehensive that a verdict might be returned against either Mr. Kent or some particular member of his family which might lead to mischievous results if such a person was afterwards put upon his trial without sufficient evidence to convict him; and, in his anxiety to prevent the jury from arriving at such a result, he might have used language, though misconstrued, which the jury seemed to have imputed to him in the affidavits.

Mr. Justice Wightman added, addressing the Solicitor-General, who supported the application for the rule:—

Your experience, Mr. Solicitor-General, of criminal practice must have shown you how detrimental it is to put a person on his trial on a Coroner's inquisition on strong grounds of suspicion, but without sufficient evidence to convict. Such a person could claim a right to be tried at the next assizes, and would be acquitted; whereas, if an open verdict were returned, and some further time allowed to elapse, other evidence might be found to sustain and lead to conviction.

The Lord Chief Justice, in delivering the judgment of the Court, said that it was to be seen that a further inquiry was sought for, in order to examine persons and to ascertain by their statements or admissions who ought to be put upon their trial.

The law does not permit such examination of persons under criminal charges. Being satisfied that the issuing of this writ would be the furthering of an object which the law does not sanction, it would not be proper in this Court to permit the exercise of such a power.

The rule was therefore discharged. Speaking simply on behalf of the public, it appears to us that there is no stronger argument for a further and better inquiry than the very reason which the Coroner alleges against it—namely, that the jury of competent men were so excited, prejudiced, and exasperated, that he could not venture to prosecute his requisitions so far as he otherwise might have

done. The discharge of the rule may be highly satisfactory to Mr. Sylvester the Coroner. But the personal feelings even of such a respected gentleman as he are not the main subject of interest in this case. It might have been ungracious to him to grant the writ, but it is something far worse than ungracious to us, as the public, to compel us to listen to recriminations between a gentlemanly Coroner and a jury of jostlers, while a cruel murderer sits in our midst grinning at the fatuity of English law in efforts to follow up the track of innocent blood.

POLICE.

CURIOUS EFFECT OF PALE ALE.—Henry Bass, a middle-aged country gentleman, was charged before Mr. Knox with having been drunk.

The police having proved the offence, Mr. Knox asked—Well, Mr. Bass, are you sober now?

Defendant—Thank you, Sir, very.

Constable—The gentleman was very bad, but I think that he is pretty right now.

Defendant—What you say, true, is very correct. I was bad, but I am right—quite right; in fact, all right (oscillating slightly).

Mr. Knox—Indeed! I doubt it.

Defendant—Oh, I assure you, I'm perfectly *compo*. The fact is that I travelled one hundred miles yesterday by train, and afterwards took some ale—pale ale. It had an "undue and corrupt influence" on my system for a time, certainly; but what you object to now is not proceeding from that—no, it's the roll of the carriage in me, not the ale.

Mr. Knox—But I fear that to part with you at present would be subjecting you to robbery; therefore the constable will take—

Defendant (impudently)—No—no, don't lock me up; let me go home—pray do.

Mr. Knox—I do not purpose locking you up. I wish to save you from being robbed and to restore you to your friends.

Defendant—Thank you, thank you. Yes, "save me from my"—no, send me to my friends.

Mr. Knox—The constable will see that you have some strong tea and—

Defendant—That's it; that's it. Tea is the thing—better than ale, ain't it, eh?

Mr. Knox—With a little rest afterwards; and then, constable, have a cab and see him safe in the train.

Defendant—That's it; that's it!—tea, rest, and train—that's it—just the thing.

Mr. Knox—I dare say he has plenty of money and will defray expenses.

Defendant—Yes, yes; I'll defray anything. Only don't confine me, because I want to get home. Come along (saying which, defendant moved off; but, quickly returning, addressed the magistrate in a grandiloquent manner).

Allow me to return my thanks, sir, for the sympathy you have shown in my most painful position, and to wish you "Good day."

After which this quaint individual left the office as steadily as the influence occasioned by the roll of the carriage would permit.

A LOCK-PICKER.—William Randle, a locksmith in the service of Mr. Hepburn, cashbox-maker, of Chancery-lane, was charged with several robberies.

Mr. Clarke, of the King's Head public-house, Little Queen-street, deposed that on Friday he sent to Mr. Hepburn for a man to pick the locks of two drawers, in one of which he had previously placed £2 in marked money—viz., one sovereign and £1 in silver money—in a glass. After the prisoner left he missed a half-crown. He identified the half-crown now produced by Holmes as being the one he missed.

Sergeant Holmes, F.3, said this course had been taken in consequence of suspicions which had fallen on the prisoner. Witness was concealed in an adjoining room while the prisoner was engaged in picking the locks and fitting new keys to them. When he got the drawer open witness heard him take a coin out of the glass in which Mr. Clarke had placed the money. As he was leaving the house witness apprehended him, and, on searching him at the station-house, found the half-crown in his pocket. He also found a receipt for £11 13s. 6d. paid on the 16th ult. to Mr. Osborne, a furniture-dealer, in Kingsgate-street, for balance of an account.

Evidence was then given that the prisoner had been sent for to Messrs. Lee and Pemberton's, solicitors, of Lincoln's Inn-fields, to pick the lock of a safe which contained a £5 note and £28 in gold. He was left alone in the room for a short time, and after he was gone the £5 note was missed. It was afterwards discovered that the prisoner had given this note to Mr. Osborne in payment of the before-mentioned account.

Mr. McColl, foreman to Messrs. Hepburn, stated that the prisoner had frequently been sent to pick locks for persons who had lost their keys. When apprehended, a cash-box which had been lost by Mr. Hepburn was found at his lodgings, as also a number of knives and forks which had belonged to Mr. Hepburn.

Holmes observed that there were numerous other charges against the prisoner; one of stealing a gold watch from a house where he was sent to pick locks; another of stealing a considerable quantity of property from Messrs. Hart and Co., of Wyck-street, ironmongers, &c., in whose service he had been before entering that of Mr. Hepburn. The officer here produced a number of articles, including deed-boxes, stationery-cases, a hand-some inkstand, and some church candlesticks, found at the prisoner's lodgings. There had also been found a quantity of linen of the finest quality, mostly of very large size, and marked "E. D. R." "E. F." and "Ward." He had no doubt he should be able to find the owners of these articles.

The prisoner said he did not mean to steal the cash-box. He only wanted it to make a picklock for cash-boxes.

Mr. Corrie committed him for trial on these three charges, but ordered him to be brought up again with reference to the other cases.

RESPECTABILITY IN TROUBLE.—On Monday Richard Corrie Bache, who up till recently had been a member of the Court of Common Council, was placed at the bar of the Mansion House justice-room, before Alderman Sir R. W. Carlen, charged with embezzlement amounting to nearly £6000. The prosecutrix was a widow lady named Mrs. Tull, owner of a ropework. As shown in evidence, the prisoner had acted as manager of the business to the late Mr. Tull, and, indeed, had been connected with the concern for nearly forty years. Suspicion having lately been aroused an accountant was called in and the books were examined, which resulted in the discovery that since 1848 defalcations to the above-named amount had taken place. A demand was ordered.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The Council for India have at length issued a proposal for a loan of £500,000 in a five per cent. loan. The interest is to be for not less than £400, and the whole amount will be required by the 10th of May. Tenders for the loan, to be in any sum, with a deposit of two per cent., will be received on Friday next.

Notwithstanding the above announcement, the market for most Home Securities has been comparatively steady during nearly the whole of the week, and, in some instances, prices have had an upward tendency. The steadiness in value may be attributed to a considerable falling off in the shipments of gold to the United States, and the consequent small parcels of gold being sent into the Bank out of the recent arrivals from Australia. There is one feature, however, calculated to keep up the price of money in this country—viz., the alleged failure on the part of the Bank of France to obtain £1,250,000 in gold from the Bank of Russia, in exchange for a similar amount in silver. The failure in the negotiation will compel the Bank of France to buy up all the gold it can possibly purchase in London.

Consols, for Money, have been done at 91½; for Account, 91½. The Reduced and New Three per Cent. have marked 91½. Exchequer Bills, 70. Discount, Bank Stock 91½ to 92½.

The demand for Money, both at the Bank of England and in Lombard-street, has been only moderate since the late week, when compared with last week, very little change has taken place in the rates out of doors—the quotations for the most approved short bills being 6½ to 6¾ per cent. The supply of capital still continues large.

Indian Securities have, as might be expected, fallen heavily, and somewhat drooping in price. India Stock has realised 218; Ditto New 91½; Ditto Five per Cent. 91½; Ditto Four per Cent. 89½; Ditto Three per Cent. 87½. The dividends of the Calcutta Copper Company is 4½ per share. The late at auction from New York bringing the exchange at 10½ to 11.

Ocean Marine Insurance Company's shares have declined to 3½; 3½. Thames and Mersey have sold at 1½ to 1½ 1/2 prem.; Universal Marine, 1½ to 1½ 1/2 prem.; London and Provincial Marine, 1½ to 1½ 1/2 prem.; East India Insurance, 1½ to 1½ 1/2 prem.; and India Cotton, 1½ to 1½ 1/2 prem.

No change of importance has taken place in the value of Foreign Bonds, and the market has continued flat—Brazilian Five per Cent. have marked 92; Ditto Four and a Half per Cent. 88, 89; Buenos Ayres Deferred, 20½; Mexican Five per Cent. 23½; New Granada, 40½; Portugal, 40½; Three per Cent. 45½; Danish Three per Cent. 51½; Russian Five per Cent. 104½; Sardinian Five per Cent. 81½; Spanish Three per Cent. 47½; Turkish 104½ Six per Cent. 79½; Ditto, New, 55½; Ditto, Old, 50½; Venezuela Three per Cent. 29; Dutch Two and a Half per Cent. 63½.

Joint-stock Bank Shares have been dealt in to a limited extent, at about previous rates. English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered have marked 16½; London Joint Stock, 30½; London and Westminster, 63½; National Provincial of England, 18½; Oriental, 47½; Ottoman, 18½; Provincial of Ireland, 84½; and Union of Australia, 39½ ex div.

Although the transactions in Colonial Government Securities have been very moderate, the quotations have ruled firm; and, in some instances, they have had an upward tendency.

A little business has been done in the exchange of Colonies: Anglo-Mexican Mint Shares have been done at 11½; Cyprus at 10½; Madras Irrigation and Canal, 13½; National Discount, 3½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, New, 16½; R. D. Sea and India Telegraph, 12½; Van Diemen's Land, 10½.

Outstanding bills in the market for Railway shares and, in some instances, the quotations have further declined to a small extent. The "calls" for the present month are £295,000.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The arrivals of English wheat up to our market this week have been on a very moderate scale and in poor condition; yet all kinds have ruled heavy, at a decline in the quotations from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 10d. per quarter. Foreign wheat, the imports of which have been very moderate, has been very inactive, at barely 7s. 10d. per quarter. Flouring crops have given us way in per quarter. There has been very little doing in barley, at 5s. 10d. per quarter. In malt it has been doing in the quotations have ruled almost nominal. Good and useful oats have commanded very high prices, but inferior sorts have met with inquiry. Beans and peas have sold at full quotations. Peas have changed hands heavily, at drooping prices.

ENGLISH CEREALS.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 44s. to 46s.; ditto, white, 42s. to 44s.; grinding barley, 30s. to 32s.; distilling ditto, 32s. to 34s.; rye, 30s. to 32s.; white, 32s. to 34s.; malt, 30s. to 32s.; peas, 10s. to 12s.; broad beans, 10s. to 12s.; vetch, 10s. to 12s.; clover, 10s. to 12s.; turnips, 10s. to 12s.; potatoes, 10s. to 12s.; cabbages, 10s. to 12s.; carrots, 10s. to 12s.; onions, 10s. to 12s.; radishes, 10s. to 12s.; lettuce, 10s. to 12s.; cress, 10s. to 12s.; spinach, 10s. to 12s.; peas, 10s. to 12s.; broad beans, 10s. to 12s.; vetch, 10s. to 12s.; clover, 10s. to 12s.; turnips, 10s. to 12s.; potatoes, 10s. to 12s.; cabbages, 10s. to 12s.; carrots, 10s. to 12s.; onions, 10s. to 12s.; radishes, 10s. to 12s.; cress, 10s. to 12s.; spinach, 10s. to 12s.; peas, 10s. to 12s.; broad beans, 10s. to 12s.; vetch, 10s. to 12s.; clover, 10s. to 12s.; turnips, 10s. to 12s.; potatoes, 10s. to 12s.; cabbages, 10s. to 12s.; carrots, 10s. to 12s.; onions, 10s. to 12s.; radishes, 10s. to 12s.; 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